

help

fanzine

issue 3
\$1.00



the SUPPRESSION SWING

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HARDWARE

YOUTH OF TODAY

help help help

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Hello, and welcome to help #3. This issue was originally slated to come out at the beginning of this last summer, but procrastination got the best of me once again up until June, and then I ended up traveling for most of the summer. I took what I guess you could call an extended roadtrip to California that lasted almost the entire duration of the June, July, and August, and I managed to make stays with friends in LA, San Diego, and San Francisco. Also, I flew out to the midwest for the first two weeks in July for a big family reunion and to visit a friend there as well, and all in all, I had a really great time this past summer. I'd really like to thank everyone that hooked me up with a place to stay or anything else at all during my journey, and I truly appreciate everything these people did for me. I love to travel, and you can bet that I'll be hitting the road again the next chance I get.

At any rate, this issue didn't start to materialize until sometime in September, and even then, I was met with my fair share of delays and troubles. I'm not going to go into much detail here, but I definitely have a new found respect for just about anyone who takes the time to try and put together a quality 'zine. Doing a 'zine takes a lot of dedication, which is something I definitely need to work on, and I applaud those 'zinesters out there whose effort is reflected in their work. I'd venture to say that doing a 'zine is just as hard, if not harder, than putting together a good band, and there are many underground publications that deserve your support. Take that to heart, OK?

Anyway, here is the long overdue third issue of help, and I sincerely hope you like it. I'm pretty satisfied with how it turned out, and I can only hope whoever copies it for me takes their time and does it right. I sure have ran into my fair share of boneheads this time around, and I've probably spent way too much money on things I didn't even need to begin with. I almost called it quits for various reasons a few times when trying to put this thing together, but now I'm glad I didn't. Hopefully, my persistence has paid off somewhat, and you can bet that I've got my fingers crossed. Well, I hope you like the 'zine, and remember, whether you hate help or you love it, I'd really like to hear from you.

Playlist winter '96-Rain On The Parade "Body Bag" 7", Ink And Dagger 7", Hot Water Music *all*, Avail "4 A.M. Friday" LP, Lifetime song on the "Anti-Matter" comp., Outspoken song on the "Anti-Matter" and "Bringing It Back" comps., Two Line Filler song on the "A Document Of Nothing" comp., Infest bootleg CD, Chain Of Strength "The One Thing That Fell Through" CD, Youth Of Today *all*, and Redemption 87 live.

Many thanks go out to the following people, in no particular order-Dave Koenig and Brett Beach/Hardware fanzine, Evan Mann, Jason Hampton, and Dave Patterson/the Suppression Swing, Orlando Sanchez, Leonard Salas, and Jae Hansel/Parades End, Dan Carolin, Dorothy Krasowska, Greg Pritchard, Jordan Baker, Dan Askew, Samantha Sansone, Dave Mandel, Matt Smith, Chad Stroup, Joe Kozlowski, Jeff Dean, Christopher Slepoda, John Dudeck, John Lacroix, Carrie Whitney, Brian Ryder, Amanda Hughes, Nick Insist, Eric and Shelley/Catchphraze, Melissa Neufell, Holly Loiacona, Eric Weiss, Al Barkley, Matt Average, Fabio Raffaeli, Ron Benway, everyone that has helped out with distribution, all the 'zines that have reviewed help, everyone that has taken the time to write, all my friends, my family, anyone I may have forgotten at this time, and last but certainly not least, the Bones Brigade and Animal Chin.

Photo Credits-Matt Smith, Joe Koz, Lisa Riecks, Ben Farish, Justin Corbett, Fabio Raffaeli, Greg Pritchard, Dan Carolin, Scott Spitz, Samantha Sansone, Chad Stroup, Eric Fortner, Jake Fredette, Holly Loiacona, Jeff Dean, Deborah Gordon, Mike Pinaud, and yours truly.

Front cover photo of Mouthpiece by Matt Smith.

Issue #2 still available with Threadbare, Boba Fett Youth, and Screams From Inside 'zine, plus all the other usual 'zine stuff like reviews and pics. \$1 ppd. or free with help #3.

Local News

OK boys and girls, I'm sorry to say that there's not going to be much of a local news section this time around, and for one basic reason-I really don't feel like there's much of a local scene worth covering here in Vegas at all. I've always tried to be fair and open minded when it came to local coverage, but I'm sick of trying to find nice things to say about bands I truly don't like or care about, and I've seen enough half-assed, slopped together 'zines over the past few months to last me a lifetime. To be honest with you, there are probably only about two or three bands here that remotely excite me, and it's been ages since I've seen a local 'zine that was worth my time, let alone anyone else's. Call me an elitist, or even an asshole if you want, but I'm done pretending that I like your band or that I think your 'zine is good. I'm sure this little rant will pit a few of you little punks against me, and who knows, I may even lose some friends because of this, but I'm offering up a challenge to all you little rug-rats out there to do something worthwhile and prove me wrong.

Now, I don't know if it's something in the water or what, but how come 99.9% of the bands here suck shit? I've heard just about enough garbage since I've lived here to give me a permanent headache, and I'm often left shaking my head, asking myself why I made the mistake of actually going to a show. If you're going to do a band, why not take the time to practice or maybe even partially learn how to play your instrument before you start playing shows, instead of just creating a wall of indecipherable noise and calling it a "band." Unfortunately, I think half the reason most kids around here start bands is because they have this "rock star" mentality and simply want to be popular or famous, but I'm here to tell you that I think you suck and to get the fuck off the stage. That may sound a bit harsh, but this is painfully obvious when bands that are actually halfway decent are forced to play in lousy spots so that three or four worthless bands can play to all their friends and look "cool." Put it this way, hard work pays off and respect is earned, and no matter how good or bad your band actually is, just because you get to stand on stage while the rest of us watch certainly doesn't make you better than anyone else. In fact, as is the case around here nine times out of ten, it only makes you look like a fool, because like I said before, most of the bands here are horrible.

I'm not saying that I want every local band to sound pro or be completely flawless by any means, and if you have a genuine love for the music, that's great, but it would be nice sometime to be able to at least understand a little bit of what's going on. You should know right from the start that I'm probably one of the biggest champions of the three chord style, but most bands here in Vegas can't even successfully pull that off. Besides a few exceptions to the established local rule, the only bands here that actually sound like they've put some time and effort into their music are the ska bands, and you can refer to Propaghandi's first LP for my feelings on that subject. C'mon people, why even bother wasting our precious time if you're not even going to put the slightest bit of heart into your work? Honestly, save it for the garage, that is, unless your parents or your neighbors can't take it anymore either, and try and shut you down as well. Yeah, I know, everybody's got to start somewhere, but can someone please look me in the eye and honestly tell me why I find myself plugging my ears, wondering what the hell is going on time and time again?

Another thing that really bugs me is the fact that bands here never have anything to say, and simply play their shitty songs and never communicate with the audience, attempt to explain what they're songs are about, or even say "hi" or "thanks for coming" most of the time when they play. Don't get me wrong, I'm all about having fun, but again, with a few rare exceptions, I have yet to see many local bands with any sort of message or meaning at all. It may seem unheard of to all you party animals out there, but I've seen bands with the most serious lyrics rock out and have a good time, and yes, it's possible to actually get something meaningful across and have fun at the same time. I'm not saying you need to try and change the world with your band or that you need to completely open up and spill your guts to us, but at least let us know what's on your mind or maybe at least acknowledge the crowd's presence. Seriously, where are your feelings or emotion, and even if you're band is about silly nonsense and having a blast, I'd really like to know about it.

As for the local 'zine scene, I could probably ramble on forever here, but I'm not even going to waste the time or the space. All I want to really say is that if you're going to try and do a 'zine, don't throw together ten sloppy, hand-written pages at Kinko's in a matter of minutes and attempt to call it a 'zine. Again, put a little time and effort into your work, and you may actually be surprised at the outcome. I'll be the first to say that doing a somewhat decent 'zine takes quite a bit of work, but it's also fun, and it feels good to hold something in your hand that you've created and that you're actually proud of. I guess all you so-called "zinesters" here in town need to ask yourselves if you actually like what you're doing, and do you think people actually care enough to read your poor excuse for a 'zine time after time? Unfortunately, the answer for me is no, and I'm still waiting to see a local 'zine that really knocks me on my ass.

I don't know, looking back I may have come across a little bad here, but for the most part, I meant everything I said and I'm going to stick to my guns. I guess more than anything, I'd just like to stir up some thought, and I'd really like to know what you think about this little tirade I just went on. If you think the scene here is awesome and that the bands and 'zines here are great, write me some hate mail or call me on my shit the next time you see me around. On the other hand, if you, like me, are sick of going home with headaches and seeing 'zines that look like they were put together by hyper active kindergartners, get in touch with me and let me know how you feel. Seriously folks, this local scene is only what we make it, and so far, I feel we haven't made much of anything at all.

life time



life time



falling forward



Letters to the Editor

Dear Lance Wells,

This will probably seem a little weird to you because I don't even know you, but right now it is 2:02 A.M. and I just read your article entitled "God Free Youth" in Amanda Hughes' 'zine (that was allegedly originally in help 'zine #2), and I had this urge to write you. Now I have no idea what so ever where you are coming from, so I will try not to assume anything about you, but I feel a need to apologize. On behalf of church, and on behalf of how Christianity has been presented to you. No, I am not sticking up for any half-minded, lukewarm, so-called "Christians" who confess the apostles creed every day and never love anyone. Okay, wait, let me start from the beginning.

First of all, I liked your article. I've seen a lot of articles in different 'zines lately that have been pretty anti-God, but even though yours seemed to outwardly contain the same subject matter, I could tell you've actually thought about this and you're not just going along with any sort of trendy anti-God thing. I respect that, but I just wanted to clear up some things with you about God and who He has become to me, personally.

I guess the first thing I wanted to say was that any Christian who can't understand why someone who isn't Christian wouldn't lead a selfish life of sin is looking at their Christianity not as a blessing from Jesus, but as a burden they have to carry. This is simple evidence of the longings of their heart. They long to lead a selfish life and they dwell on the fact that if they were not a Christian they would be totally evil and try to hurt as many things as possible. This brings into question their sincerity.

Are these people truly living a life for Christ out of love for Him, or are they simply being "safe enough" so they can get to heaven when they die? The sad thing is, a lot of so-called "Christians" look at their Christianity this way. As something they have to trudge around with their whole life. This might be my own opinion, but I believe anyone who does their work and obedience for Christ out of obligation rather than love is really not a Christian at all because they are relying on their own efforts to save them rather than on the blood of the One who died in their place.

Speaking from experience, I can tell you honestly that I have totally questioned my beliefs in God. I was raised in a Christian household, and my parents encouraged me in my relationship with Jesus. I got sent to camp, and I rededicated my life to Christ about once a year because it never really meant all that much and all that good stuff.

Then there came a point where I pretty much turned away from God. Not because He had ever done anything to me, not because I didn't know He really existed, just simply because he hadn't revealed Himself to me yet. I didn't really turn away from Him because I had never really known Him yet.

I got really involved in the punk scene, and it became my life. I was so turned on by something that seemed so true to purpose and so right on, but as I grew more and more involved in the punk community, I began to notice a few things. One of them was that a lot of punks were a whole lot more fake than I thought. As a matter of fact, most people were just "punk" because it was the coolest thing to do at the time, and they would wear all the spikes and never take showers and do everything there was to do to be punk rock. Not because they didn't care what people thought of them, but because they were so concerned with what people thought of them they were willing to do anything to fit in.

I was one of these people. In moments of sheer disgust, I found myself judging people just by looking at their clothes, or their hair, or by listening to their voice, or by pretty much anything. Actually, I thought I had everything figured out, when really, my head and my heart were so filled with pride in myself and judgementalness (if that's a word) toward others that I couldn't see how far I had sunken into the pit I was digging myself.

The other thing that I noticed was that there were all these kids getting involved in all this hype about punk rock, and they all came wanting acceptance because they had never had it anywhere before and we accepted them. But after awhile, they discovered that all the pain in their lives was not being dealt with, so they had to get more involved with punk rock and push all their pain and rejection back inside of them even further than it was when they first got involved so they could still go on convincing themselves that they did belong. I saw these things going in around me, and worst of all, I saw myself doing nothing about it. I knew kids who were on the verge of suicide, and I didn't say anything because I figured, hey, it's their business. I knew kids who were so trapped in drugs they couldn't get out and I didn't try to help them because I figured they would probably resent me for it. One of those people is in jail right now, probably because I didn't speak to him, or rather, I wasn't available to be used by God to speak to this young man about Jesus.

Finally, after awhile, I gave up on punk rock because it wasn't real to me either. I still went to shows and stuff, but I never really got into the whole philosophy again. I tried smoking, not that I was going to find any supreme truth in smoking, but just because I was tired of my stupid life. I was tired of never finding anything real, so I tried drinking. I never got drunk, I just drank a little bit and then decided one day that was stupid too.

Then something new happened. I was posed with the question, "If you died today, would you go to heaven?" It was kind of a strange question to be asked of me, because throughout all my inner rebellion against God, I still had my parents and everyone else in church convinced that I really loved God and I really wanted to follow after His plan for me. But I was faking it, and God knew it. Through someone else He Himself asked me that question, and I froze because I didn't know and that was relatively scary because there's a general belief in church's version of Christianity that if you're not sure you're going to heaven you're *not* going to heaven.

Not out of fear or out of any strange divine feeling I got, I challenged God. I challenged Him to show Himself to me in such a way that I could not deny that it was Him, and He did. I can't explain it to you in words because there's no words that describe what I felt that day, it was just this feeling. I was in a room with about ten other people and I was crying and I had my hands raised, and for the first time in my life, I knew God was real and I knew I was going to dedicate my life to follow Him because He was the only *real* thing in my life.

Since that day, Jesus has never let me down. I come to Him every single day now, and He meets me and communicates to me how much he loves me and exactly what things He has for me every day, so I encourage you to seek God, Lance. I believe the Bible to be the complete and true word of God, not because it's been proven or because there's so much evidence, but because I love God and I know that's what He says. The Bible says those who *diligently* seek Him shall find Him, and if you're willing to do that, He will meet you, I guarantee that, if you come to Him humbly to be heard.

I don't know if you heard any of this or if you think you need God, but I guess if you don't, then I just wrote all this in vain and I don't think God would let me do that. Well, it's 3 o'clock, and I think I'm going to call it a night. Sorry this was so freakish, because we don't even know each other and stuff.

Anyway,
Aaron Stembe
132 Parkwood Place
Fairmont, MN 56031

Aaron,

Hey, thanks for the thoughtful letter, as I really appreciate the fact that you took some time out to respond with a whole hearted effort to the "God Free Youth" article I wrote that appeared in help #2 and Paranoy #12. Quite a few people wrote saying they liked the article, but never went much further than that and I honestly expected to get quite a few more letters like yours. I guess the reason I didn't get many letters regarding the article probably has a lot to do with the strong anti-religion sentiment within the scene, and probably even more to do with the fact that many people involved in punk and hardcore, or any scene for that matter, are merely followers and think and do only what they're supposed to, which is one of the main points I intend to get across here. Now I'll be the first to say that I think this whole religion thing has just about been beaten into the ground, but since you took the time to write me an intelligent letter, I'm going to try and somewhat wrap things up here so we can move on to other things. To keep things somewhat in order and flowing, I'm going to attempt to address a couple of the ideas you brought up and expand on them.

Well, the first thing I noticed about your letter was that you are a Christian and that you liked the "God Free Youth" article, which is something I was more than happy about. A few of my really close friends and even most of my family consider themselves Christians so I never intended the article to come across as a thoughtless insult, and to be honest, I still don't see how anyone who considers themselves a "true" Christian could be offended by what I had to say. You mentioned something in your letter about "fake" Christians who are merely being "safe enough" to get into heaven and those who live their lives for Christ out of obligation rather than love, and that is exactly the group of people I was targeting when I wrote the article. These people are often the one's who carry the creed of, "It's my way or the highway," and are the types who, more often than not, are the most close-minded and dangerous because of their need to put others down so they can feel good about themselves and what they're doing. Of course, every cause or niche in society is occupied by individuals of this nature, but to keep things on a somewhat small scale, we'll stick mainly to religion for the time being.

One thing I'd like to make painstakingly clear before I go any further is that I'm not claiming to be any sort of expert when it comes to religion, but I have read quite a bit of the Bible, and as you yourself noted, it is something that I have thought about considerably, unlike many believers and non-believers who are merely doing what is cool or acceptable in their peers' eyes. You see, I was involved in a very serious relationship a while back, and religion is pretty much what brought things to an end. This girl I was going out with was "born again" about halfway through the two years we shared together, and without a doubt, she put a ton of pressure on my back to look into Christianity for myself. Seriously, this person would tell me things like she didn't think she should be going out with me anymore because I wasn't a Christian, which made me angry because I needed her to accept me for who I was, but at the same time, I loved and respected this person very much, so I did a lot of searching within myself and the church for some answers. Looking back, though, the pressure that was placed upon me is probably one of the things that turned me away from Christianity the most, because at the time I had no intentions what so ever of searching for god and I honestly don't think I was ready for or needed religion at the time, although someone else sure thought they knew what was best for me and practically turned me away because I didn't feel the same way.

Religion, like many things, has always been something I've looked at as a personal choice; something that those who believed lived and died by, without forcing their convictions on anyone or looking down upon anybody for thinking differently than they did, and that's exactly what my best friend and countless others are doing to the people they supposedly love. In your letter, you talk about kids you knew who were on the verge of suicide, getting into drugs, and even one friend that ended up in jail, and how you weren't "available" to be used by god to speak to these people about Jesus. Who knows, maybe you could have helped or saved your friends from a lot of pain and misery, but I think the thing you fail to see, along with countless other Christians, is that religion and Jesus just might not be the answer to everyone's problems. Sure, when you think you've found a good thing you want to share it with others, especially those you love, but cramming ideas down people's throats is only going to create conflict and turn them away in the end. As hard as it may be to accept, the same things that get you through your day and keep you going don't work for everyone, which brings me to my next point.

When I originally wrote the "God Free Youth" article, I couldn't help but notice how the arguments I was using against the many close-minded, stubborn followers of Christianity were also the things I despised about more than a few of the people involved with straight edge and today's vegetarian/vegan movement within the hardcore scene. You and I both know the self-righteous elitists who make statements like, "go vegan or go fuck yourself," and bands like Earth Crisis who shove their views on others with threats of violence are no better than the worst finger pointing Christians, and I had planned to write an article paralleling religion to the modern vegan straight-edge movement using the basic points put forth in the "God Free Youth" essay. Well, that article never saw the light of day, but it's rather plain to see that many people involved with these causes fail to see that maybe someone who drinks, eats meat, or doesn't believe in god, to bring us back to my original point, could actually be a good person, and most of these people are mindless followers searching for acceptance who are now implying the same "believe or burn" tactics that originally turned me away from religion by attempting to enforce SXE and veganism as some sort of law that must be obeyed or else. Don't get me wrong, being SXE and vegetarian (no, I'm not vegan, so come kill me) are two things that are rather important to me on a personal level, but I guess you could say I simply do what works for me and I certainly don't expect everyone to do the same.

As for now, I still don't feel like I need religion, and I can't say I ever will. I took a long, hard look at Christianity, and although I didn't necessarily like what I saw, I can more than respect anyone who has the strength and conviction to dedicate their life to something they believe in, like god or veganism for example, as long as they have the common sense and courtesy to be aware of and respect someone else's opinion. I truly think we'd all be a little better off if we worried more about ourselves and our own problems instead of everyone else around us and what we feel they're doing wrong, and more than anything, I think we need to realize that we're not all the same and that everyone has different ideas and opinions about everything. If you do happen to find something you feel is worth sharing, then the best thing you can do is live your life as an example and hope some others catch on along the way, because forcing your views and beliefs on others will only create conflict and attempting to fit everyone into your "perfect" mold will only add up to an insurmountable degree of stress and frustration. At any rate, Aaron, thanks again for the letter, and as much as I appreciate your concern for me, I need to find the answers to this big question called life on my own accord, just like everyone else.-Lance



G U I L T

anum



Quake

the SUPPRESSION SWING



The Suppression Swing is a somewhat new band hailing from Huntington Beach, California that features two ex-members of Outspoken, and contrary to many rumors, these guys did not break up and have made a rather strong return after a short hiatus. The following interview took place sometime toward the beginning of November with Jason-vocals, Evan-guitar, and Dave-bass, but unfortunately, Mike and P.T. were unavailable for the interview at the time. The Suppression Swing has been compared to some legendary bands like Dag Nasty, Black Flag, Verbal Assault, and Government Issue, so check out their "Just A Word" 7" on New Age Records and watch for a new 7" soon and a tour sometime next year.

What are some things in your everyday life that drive you to be in a hardcore band?

Jason-For me, being in a band seems to be some kind of outlet. No matter how hard my life gets, it always takes me away. When we're together playing, I don't think about anything else.

Evan-For me, music has always been a major part of my life. If someone asked me about a certain period in my life, I could just throw on a record, and that could explain my exact sentiment for that time. Certain music evokes certain emotions and memories or things that are currently affecting me. Especially hardcore, because it is so raw and hopefully honest.

Dave-That is a tough question for me. I do not know exactly what drives me to be in a hardcore band, besides the fact that I love the music and the scene that surrounds it.

I remember once when I saw you guys play, Jason was mentioning something about the band having a bunch of problems. I'm curious as to what exactly he was talking about?

Jason-We had some problems that convinced us to take a little break. First, we had a sorry ass attempt at a tour. We made it to the first show in Arizona, and our van decided to take a shit! We were stuck in 110 degree weather for six days. (No offense to the awesome kids in Arizona, but I don't know how the fuck they put up with that weather.) Second, we lost another bass player. Third, for me, hardcore has changed so much from when I first got into it that at times it's hard to deal with. Sometimes it feels like everyone is competing with each other when it should be the exact opposite. I mean, now we've got cool little hardcore gangs to tell us we're not hard enough. Thanks to these people, it makes me feel embarrassed to have anything to do with hardcore.

The first thing I heard about the Suppression Swing was that it featured ex-members of Outspoken, and I know the New Age ads say it as well. How tough is it to get a new band going, especially since Outspoken was a rather well established band?

Jason-I was only in Outspoken for a short time, but it was great. It's not all that tough to move on to a new band. As a matter of fact, it's more exciting than anything. You get to start completely over, and do all the things you wish you would've done before.

I know this question is a bit vague, but what does hardcore mean to you?

Jason-It's played the biggest part in my life so far. I mean, for the last six or seven years my life has revolved around it. I knew that hardcore would always be there when it seemed like nothing else was. To be honest, I can't really explain why, but it's just where I feel most comfortable.

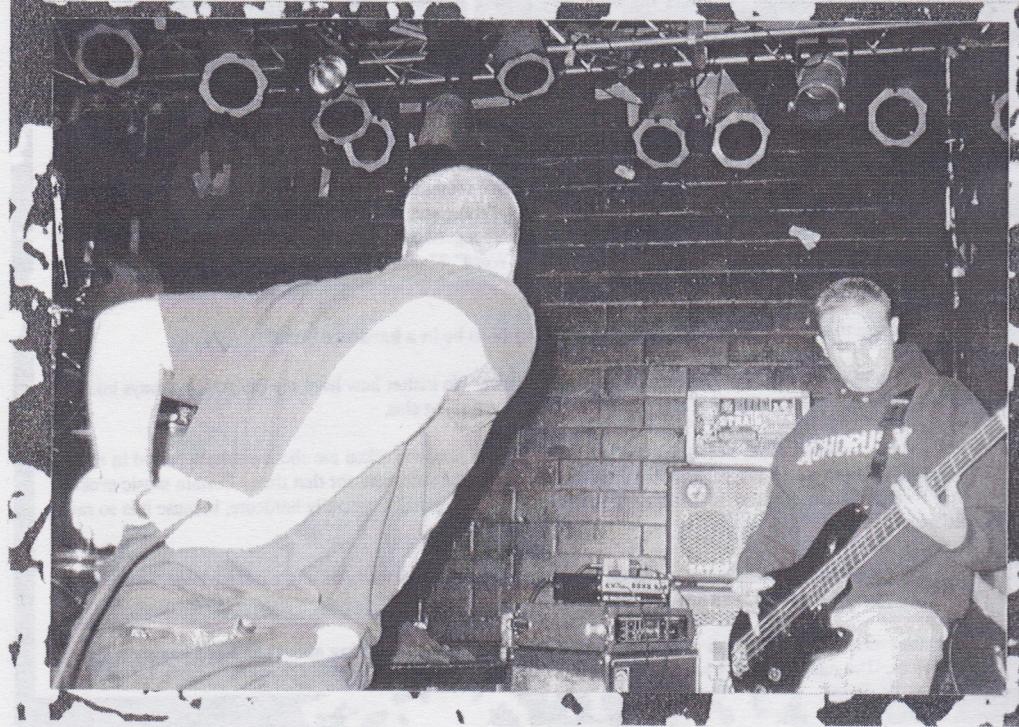
Evan-Confrontation. Whether it's attacking your own life, your own problems or shortcomings, be they personal, social, political, whatever. Doing things your own way, that's hardcore. Punk with a purpose.

Dave-I think hardcore is all about being yourself, and doing what you want no matter what other people may say. It is not about being "cool" and trying to fit in with the clique of the month.

What troubles you about the hardcore scene, in general?

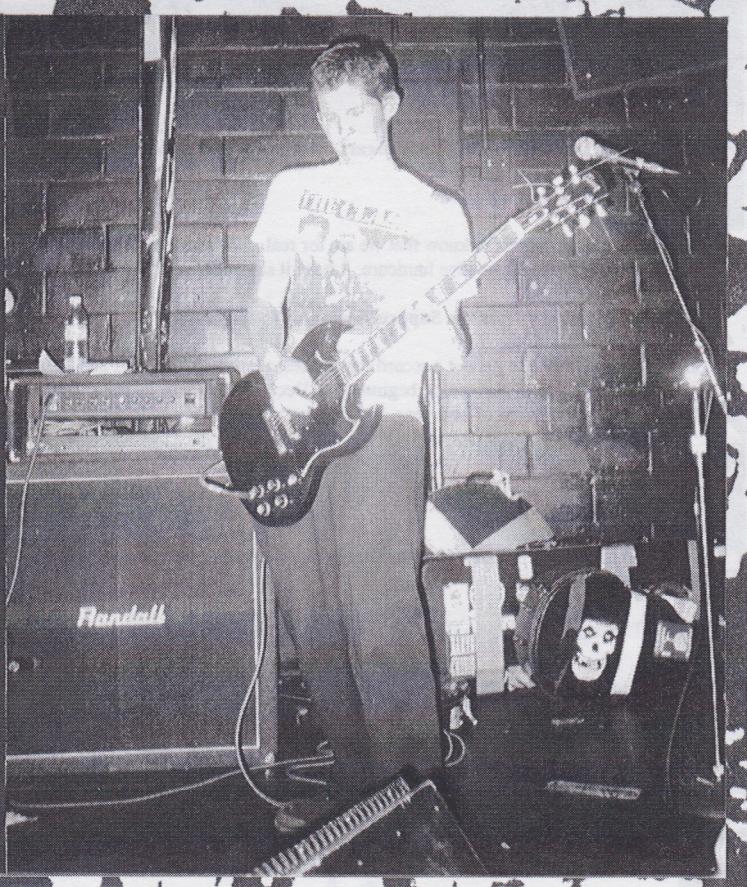
Dave-All the separation!

Jason-The punk rock is gone. At times, it seems like people are complaining more than just having fun. But don't get me wrong, I care about this world too, it's just that if I dwelled on it all the time, it would probably kill me.



Line

get in line . . .
don't look ahead
time and time
there lie we're fed
I try to move on
but every step I take
is pulling me back
to this world you make
get in line . . .
conform . . .
to there lies . . .



Evan-In general, everything. But that is nothing. Negative. I like to keep the P.M.A. (Positive Mental Attitude, for all you suckers out there.) Bring back the individual. Stop scrutinizing.

Let's talk about the lyrics some. I was wondering if the song "Still Feel" was written about one person in particular, and I'm assuming "Authority Figure" was too?

Jason-A lot of the lyrics are about relationships. It seems to be the one thing that effects us everyday. For example, "Authority Figure" is about a relationship with my father I never had.

What are some of your newer songs about?

Jason-The lyrics go all over the place in the new songs. They deal with pretty much all the typical hardcore topics. "You Hide" is about the answer to racism. Forget your pride. It doesn't make any sense to me to be walking around saying, "I'm not racist, but I'm proud to be white or I'm proud to be black." That makes absolutely no sense. I'm no better than anyone else, and you're no better than anyone else. So, if we're no better than anyone else, "What the fuck do you have to be proud of?!"

OK, if you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Dave-I could always be more positive towards people who do things I hate.

Evan-My underwear.

If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would it be and why?

Jason-Jesus Christ, so I could open up a can of whup ass on him.

Evan-God, so I could ask him what really happened.

Dave-Traci Lords, for obvious reasons.

What would you want someone who hears the Suppression Swing to come away with?

Evan-A headache and a T-shirt.

Jason-I would want them to know that we are for real. We're not trying to be something we're not. We love being in a hardcore band, and we love hardcore. I hope it shows through our music.

What can we expect from the Suppression swing in the future?

Jason-We would like to get out a record that we feel represents the band a little better. We are planning to record a two song single end of November, beginning of December. It will be two songs from our full length, which should be out sometime the first of next year, and then we will probably be looking towards a tour.

Dave-Great things.

Any closing comments?

Evan-I'd like to say "hi" to all our buddies in the Monster Crew. Congratulations on the whole hardline thing. But still, I'm just sayin'.

Jason-Thank you.

✓ the Suppression Swing
10162 Beverly Dr.
Huntington Beach, CA 92646





H₂O



snipease



walleye



parades e n d

Formed from the remnants of Remain and featuring an ex-member of Outspoken, Parades End are an up and coming band from the LA area. The following questions were answered sometime in late October by Orlando-guitar/vocals, Leonard-bass, and Jae-vocals/guitar, with new drummer Matt unfortunately unavailable for the interview. Be sure and check out their 7" that was just released on The Wordsmith Covenant (see review section), which completely blows away their song on the "Guilty By Association" comp., and watch for them on tour hopefully in the near future.

First off, why the name Parades End, and does it have any particular meaning to you?

Jae-I found the name in a library while I was looking for a book five years ago, and it stuck with me ever since. The meaning is more personal due to the fact that I never actually read the book. I feel it represents a kind of reality check. After the parades, the celebrations, and disasters occur, what remains and what have we gained? It also means to gain consciousness of our struggle against oppression in our daily lives.

Orlando-I like the name because it can represent a lot. I think it carries a lot of meaning and can be interpreted in many ways.

What happened with Remain, and what happened to the original singer for Parades End?

Orlando-Remain played their last show in December of '94. We broke up because our guitarist, Butch, moved up to San Francisco. He was a big part of the band, so we decided to call it quits and move on to different things. Butch now sings for The Q-Factor. The original singer for Parades End, Johnny, is no longer in the band because of musical differences. He was heading in a different direction than the rest of us. We also added a new drummer to the line up, his name's Matt. Our original drummer had a lot going on in his life, so it got difficult for him to continue doing the band. We're all very pleased with the way the line up turned out, though.

Tell me a little bit about the label your 7" came out on, The Wordsmith Covenant, such as who's behind it and how you got hooked up with that?

Orlando-The Wordsmith Covenant is our friend Andrew's label. He'd been wanting to start a label for awhile, so he asked us if we wanted to do a 7" and we did. He did a really good job, too.

I guess you guys played the Goleta Festival this past summer. What were your impressions of that whole event?

Orlando-I was really stoked about playing the Goleta Festival. We had a really good time and met a bunch of awesome people and saw a bunch of awesome bands.

Jae-I thought it was a really positive experience. I also met a lot of really interesting people and had a lot of interesting discussions about hardcore and it's connection to the outside world.

What troubles you about the hardcore scene, and on the other hand, what do you feel are some of the more positive aspects of the scene, in general?

Leonard-The complacency bothers me. Everyone's complacent with their happy little scene around them. People are too scared to piss people off. There's not enough frustration anymore.

Orlando-I think a lot of kids are too specialized in the things they're against. It seems like the only issues troubling a lot of kids are straight edge and veganism and that's it. Those are worthy causes and I advocate both, but there are so many other things wrong in the world. Third world exploitation, poverty, police and government corruption, the list is endless. We've got check marks beside drugs and meat, but that doesn't cover enough on the list. I understand that we can't possibly cover everything, but there is a definite need for expansion. I'd like to see hardcore kids representing the scene outside of the scene.

Jae-I agree, and I'd also like to add that other than the bands who play the music, the labels who put them out have always influenced the direction and evolution of hardcore. I think the real computerized layouts only create higher standards, and exclude the do it yourself ethic by saying that only people with a high income can create a reasonably standard product. It's already a problem that the hardcore scene consists of mostly white, middle class males, but by redefining the status quo you're only heightening your class position. Therefore, people who would more benefit from hardcore, such as non-whites, lower class, and non-males, and others, who in the past have never been interested in it's content and expectations, never will be. Other than that, the scene's great! (ha, ha, ha)

Besides playing music, what keeps you guys busy, and at the same time, what are some things in your everyday life that influence you, either positively or negatively, to continue doing bands and participating in the scene?

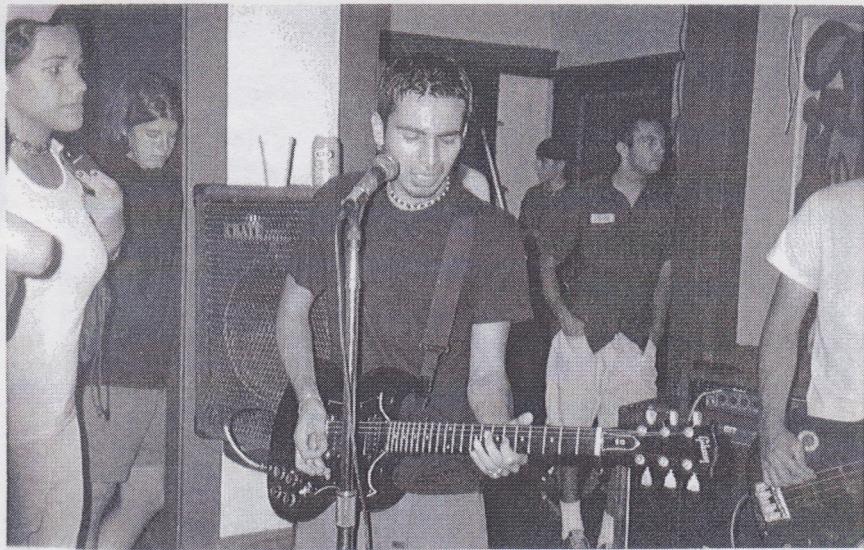
Orlando-We all work, and Matt and I go to school, too. Weekends we go to shows or hang out with friends and eat at rad vegan restaurants in our area.

Leonard-What keeps me doing the band and participating in the scene is that I still believe in the old hardcore ethic of doing it yourself. It's just rewarding to know that you did it. There's a certain feeling one gets knowing that there's some kid somewhere, halfway around the world that you can relate to, that knows exactly how you feel about things. Then one day you meet that kid and you can just hang out for hours talking about hardcore, just like that Youth of Today song "One Family."

Are there things in your day to day routine you would consider hardcore or related to hardcore in some way?

Jae-I work a meaningless, lifeless job selling shoes. Everyday I generate more and more hate for capitalism, but I also try to continuously be involved in progressive ways to better myself to help better the world, such as Food Not Bombs, Industrial Workers of the World, creating and distributing pamphlets, and trying to help the community.





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OK, if in the snap of your fingers you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Orlando-I'd like to be more involved with the struggles of others instead of just talking about it a lot. I'd like my actions to speak a lot louder.

Leonard-I feel the same way.

Jae-I would also have to agree.

If you could meet one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

Leonard-If I had the chance, it would be my brother 'cause I never got to meet him. Sometimes I feel my life would be different if he were around.

Orlando-I know this isn't historically significant or anything, but it's honest. I would say my biological father, just because I'm curious about him...what he looks like, what he's like. I'd also like to know if I have any half siblings.

Jae-I would also liked to have met my father before he died, but also, I'm glad that I never met him. It might have changed the course of my life. I might not have led myself to where I am now, doing this interview, playing in this band, feeling the way I feel about certain things.

What makes you happy, and what was the last thing you saw or heard that made you laugh?

Orlando-Hanging out with my friends and playing shows does it for me. The last thing I heard that really made me laugh was me and leonard's roommate, Dan "the marathon man", and his squeaky bed.

Leonard-the last thing that made me laugh the hardest was that night with Dan. We were busting up all night.

Jae-Yeah, when I walked out of Dan's room that night everyone was laughing. Just kidding. What makes me happy, though, is when I'm eating great food with my friends.

What do you hope to accomplish with Parades End, and what would you want someone who hears your band to get out of it?

Orlando-I would just like Parades End to be an effective means of communicating with a whole bunch of people that we could have never reached otherwise. I'd like to hopefully introduce or encourage different ideas to listeners that would, in some way, benefit them or help them benefit others, and hopefully provide them with something enjoyable to listen to. That's what I get from other people's music, so that's what I would like our music to provide.

Jae-I agree with Orlando, but specifically to exemplify doing it yourself, thinking for yourself, and breaking away from the lead or follow mentalities that either champions or destroys, and meeting and working with people who feel the same.

What can we expect from you guys in the future?

Leonard-Putting out our next record, and hopefully we'll tour.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Parades End-Don't let phantoms, saviors, or fairy tales rule you. You are your own. Thank you, Lance.

Parades End
P.O. Box 15886
Long Beach, CA 90815





UNDERTOW



HATCHET FACE



ERGBOS

Hardcore Mailorder

Since I have lived in Las Vegas for the better part of my life and don't have access to a really good record store, I have pretty much relied on mailorder for the past few years to fuel my constant need for new music and 'zines. Now I know quite a few people are skeptical about mailorder for a number of reasons, but with the reliability most distributors carry these days, I just don't get it. Sure, there are definitely things you need to remember when ordering stuff through the mail, such as printing your name and address clearly on order forms, and we all know sending cash through the mail isn't the smartest thing you can do (you can never trust Mr. Postman), but for the most part, I've never had any major problems with any mailorder distribution or the US Postal Service. Besides, getting mail is definitely one of the better things in life, and how else are you supposed to get the records you want if your local record store doesn't carry them? The following is a list of some of the mailorders I've dealt with, as well as some other distributions with reliable reputations that I've never ordered stuff from, and I guess this is kind of my way of saying thanks to all those people who have taken on the sometimes thankless job of supplying kids like me with the records and 'zines we want.

Very Distribution-These guys are definitely the big dogs when it comes to reliable mailorder service, and my bet is if you're looking for something, Very probably has it. \$1 (US) or \$2 (world) will get you their supposedly monthly catalog which is packed full of descriptive reviews of all the music they carry, and also features a rather large selection of 'zines and T-shirts as well. Very definitely tops my list when it comes to mailorder, and John and his fellow cohorts have received more than a few orders from me over the past few years. If you're planning on ordering some records or you're if you're looking for something in particular, Very Distribution is probably where you should start. (P.O. Box 42586, Philadelphia, PA 19101)

Ebullition Mailorder-Besides running one of the largest hardcore record labels in existence today and overseeing the production of HeartattaCk 'zine, Kent and co. also do a rather reliable mailorder distribution. Ebullition Mailorder carries a lot of rather obscure and somewhat hard to find records (Japanese hardcore being their new thing), and their prices are extremely low, even compared to most record stores, which is pretty amazing considering the cost of postage these days. I've ordered records from Ebullition a few times, and I always got everything I ordered and it never took them more than two weeks to get my stuff out to me. If you're looking for some more obscure records or if you're just into the whole Ebullition/HaC thing, then you need to write these people for a complete list of all the stuff they carry. (P.O. Box 680, Goleta, CA 93116)

Andrew Thomas Company-I think the Andrew Thomas Co. started out primarily as a T-shirt co., but later branched out to carry a bunch of records and 'zines as well. These guys have ,what I believe, is a monthly catalog that is quite similar to the Very catalog in that it has descriptive reviews of all the records they sell, and also has a pretty healthy dose of 'zines and T-shirts too. Honestly, I don't think the ATC has as much as Very as far as selection, but you might want to check out the many T-shirts and other goods they make on their own. All in all, Chris and crew run a reliable distribution in my book, and \$1 will get you a copy of their latest catalog. (55 Seale St., Pittston, PA 18640)

Shoehorn Distribution-I don't know what it is with Pennsylvania, but it sure seems like quite a few kids are going out of there way to do mailorder in that area. At any rate, Shoehorn is a newer distribution with a pretty large selection of music, 'zines, and T-shirts, and from what Amy tells me, the folks at Shoehorn are also planning to open a record store in the Philly area sometime in November. I've only ordered stuff from Shoehorn a couple of times, and I guess the only complaint I really have is that it always seems like one or two of the things I order are out of stock at the time. However, Amy gets her orders out fast and her prices are very reasonable, so you might want to write her for a catalog. (2522 Salmon St., Philadelphia, PA 19125)

Engine Fanzine Mailorder-Engine is primarily an all 'zine mailorder, and although I haven't heard from Matt in a long time, I'm pretty sure he's still doing this distribution. Engine has a nice selection of 'zines from around the world, and I suppose a stamp would get you Matt's latest list, which includes descriptions of all the 'zines he has to offer. I must say, though, that I've only ordered 'zines from here once, and I never got my stuff! I suppose no one is perfect, and I suppose you should probably write Engine to get a current list of all the stuff Matt has for sale. (P.O. Box 640928, SF, CA 94164)

I've never dealt with the following mailorder distributions, but that shouldn't stop you from checking them out.

Victory Records-As if running the biggest label in hardcore these days isn't enough, Tony and his staff also do distribution for a ton of other labels. \$1 will get you the latest Victory catalog which is packed full of goodies, and also features interviews and spotlights with most of the current Victory bands. (P.O. Box 146546, Chicago, IL 60614)

Revelation Records-Revelation is another larger than life label that does distribution for a bunch of other fledgling labels. Send them a stamp or \$1 to get their latest mailorder catalog that also includes interviews and checkouts with most of the bands on Rev, as well as loads of music for your listening pleasure. (P.O. Box 5232, Huntington Beach, CA 92615)

Lumberjack Distribution-The folks at Art Monk Construction started this mailorder distribution awhile back, and from their ads, it looks like they carry a bunch of stuff from all sorts of different labels. They seem sincere and reliable, so you might want to write them for a copy of their most recent catalog. (P.O. Box 6332, Falls Church, VA 22040)

Vacuum Mailorder-These guys have a huge 600 title catalog, and tend to carry some of the more obscure records out there. Send them \$1 to get their latest catalog, which is jam packed with hardcore, punk, and garage goodies. (P.O. Box 460324, SF, CA 94164)

Blindspot Mailorder-No Idea fanzine/records and Toybox records have teamed up to bring us this rather new mailorder distribution. From the look of things, these guys have a pretty diverse list of stuff to sell, and a SASE will get you their full catalog. (P.O. Box 14636, Gainesville, FL 32604)

Sound Idea Distribution-Sound Idea is another distribution based out of Florida, and according to their ad, they carry nearly 2,000 titles from around the world. This mailorder distribution also doubles as a store and deals wholesale, so it might be a good idea to send them \$1 to get their newest catalog. (P.O. Box 3204, Brandon, FL 33509)

Icarus Zine Distro-Besides doing one of the thickest and best 'zines out there today, the hardworking chaps at Icarus Was Right also do this primarily 'zine oriented distribution. Their selection isn't the greatest, but these guys sell their 'zines real cheap (I'm talking wholesale rates), so you might want to pick up the latest issue of Icarus Was Right or check out their latest ad to see what they currently have. (P.O. Box 191175, San Diego, CA 92159)

Homeless Records-I just heard about Homeless not too long ago, and I have heard nothing but good things about the mailorder distribution they do. Be sure to check out their super catalog full of music, 'zines, and surprisingly enough, books! (3917a Castleman, St. Louis, MO 63110)

Before I end this, there's one more tidbit I'd like to add. Most of these distributors are willing to help you out if you do a record label or a 'zine, and many of them offer the stuff they carry to stores and kids at wholesale cost. Always send a sample of what you have if you're looking for help with distribution, and write them for rates if you want to buy some goods and try your luck at selling some records or 'zines. And remember, always give thanks when ordering from or dealing with these people, because they are going out of their way to help you out and that's something that shouldn't be taken for granted. OK, I suppose there's enough information here to help get good music and 'zines in everyone's hands, so I don't want to hear any more complaining about how you local record store sucks, when everything you want or need is only a few zip codes and a few extra dollars away.



•INSIST•



FLOORPUNCH

INCINNIT



Record Reviews

I'm sure some of these reviews are a bit dated, but the review section is the first part I layout, and this issue, like the others, has seen it's fair share of delays. The main reason I decided to make reviews an important part of this 'zine in the first place is because most of the kids here in Vegas would never find out about half the stuff reviewed here otherwise, and there are some pretty good tunes coming out now. Of course, with the good always comes the bad, and I've certainly heard my fair share of horrible records and CD's lately. At any rate, all the reviews here were done by me, Lance, and are strictly my opinion.

Assfort "s/t" 7"-Assfort hail from the islands of Japan, and play some fast, thrash hardcore with harsh screamed vocals and some occasional back-ups. There's no lyric sheet, and I probably couldn't even begin to fathom what's being said here even if I knew Japanese, but that doesn't make this 7" any less enjoyable. I especially got a kick out of the pictures of these guys going off and breaking the no stagediving rule at Gilman St. on the cover, and you gotta love the fact that they're probably having the time of their lives playing the music they love. I'll take this over any of the metal shit I've heard lately, but I just wish I could sing along. (Prank, P.O. Box 410892, SF, CA 94141)

Avail "4 A.M. Friday" LP-Avail has been one of my favorite bands ever since I first heard their "Satiate" LP, but this latest offering definitely takes the cake as their best yet. Honestly, this thing has so much energy I can only listen to it when no one is home, or else I'd probably get caught jumping off my bed screaming into a hairbrush or something. Avail is the one band that seems to appeal to both punk and hardcore kids equally alike, and with songs as catchy and feisty as these, it's really no wonder why. I think it's safe to say that Avail is easily one of the best bands around today, so if you haven't heard these guys yet, put down everything immediately and head to your local record store. (Lookout!, P.O. Box 11374, Berkeley, CA 94712)

Battery "Until The End" CD-I was pretty sure I was going to like this before I ever listened to it, but I didn't expect to be completely floored by it. These fifteen songs are so angry and full of energy that it is impossible for me to sit still while I'm listening to this, and I think my bed is about to cave in from repeated stage dives. From the simple but effective lyrics and the extremely heartfelt vocals behind them, to the fast paced, heavy hardcore Battery choose to play, I'd say everything about this is A+. Heck, these guys even throw a rousing cover of 7 Seconds "Young Till I Die" our way, which more than warms the heart of this long time Nevada resident. (Conversion, P.O. Box 5213, Huntington Beach, CA 92615)

Blangk "Letter To No One" 7"-OK, Blangk hails from the musical mecca known as Louisville, Kentucky, and play some chunky, metal influenced, maybe even grungy sounding tunes with an occasional acoustic breakdown. I can hear a slight "After Taste" era Endpoint influence, especially in the whiny, half-sung vocals, and the music reflects it a bit as well. The production and packaging for this record is very top notch, but unfortunately, the tunes here just don't do much of anything for me. I think the last song scared me off completely when I couldn't stop thinking of Skid Row, so if you choose to look into this any further, proceed with caution. (Toothless, P.O. Box 6731, Louisville, KY 40206)

Bleed "True Colors Running" 7"-I really liked Bleed's "Bully Complex" LP, and the six songs here follow the same relentless plan of attack, although the pounding, fast drum beat seems more prevalent this time around. Again, like their last record, the dual vocalists never really let up from start to finish, and the lyrics here are easily some of the best I've read in a while, with issues like commitment, the scene, religion, betrayal, growing up, and the so-called "vegan revolution" being dealt with open and honestly. Seriously, this record is so raw and sincere it hurts, and while the music is good, the best thing about this 7" is the ideas that are expressed. For those that don't know, this is hardcore. (Ebullition, P.O. Box 680, Goleta, CA 93116)

Bluetip "s/t" CD-Considering that Dischord hasn't released a new record that I've liked in who knows how long, I kind of bought this on a whim, mostly because Bluetip features ex-members of Swiz and World's Collide. Well, these twelve songs have that rockin', D.C. influenced sound that has become all too familiar with Dischord these days, and the layout on this thing is easily some of the most attractive I've seen in some time. I actually kind of dig the first few songs on this CD, but I put it on the other night before I went to bed and I woke up around the sixth song, half-dazed, and I thought I was having a nightmare. There are parts of this CD that I really do like, but Bluetip's rockin' style just doesn't have enough bark or bite to hold my interest for very long. (Dischord, 3819 Beecher St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20007)

Botch "The John Birch Conspiracy Theory" 7"-I've read a few reviews that compared Botch to Threadbare, and I'd say that's a pretty fair description, although more chaos is the key here, if you can believe that. The vocals are harsh, the music is driving and frantic, and with pictures of destroyed drum kits in the insert, I'm sure this band is a treat live. I'm still not too sure exactly what The John Birch Conspiracy Theory is, but from info included with the record, I know it has something to do with the recent rise of right wing politics in the SXE scene. Pick this 7" up, and see for yourself. (Phyte, P.O. Box 14228, Santa Barbara, CA 93107)

Circle Storm "Spirit" 7"-When I first heard that Circle Storm featured ex-members of Chain Of Strength I was definitely interested, but I was also a bit skeptical. The two songs included on this 7" were recorded back in '88, in the same studio and at the same time No For An Answer was recording their "A Thought Crusade" LP, and they sound like they almost could have been included on that record, except for the big difference in vocals between the two bands. The thing that gets me about this whole thing is that it took almost seven years to come out, and most interesting of all, it appears Circle Storm has reformed and started playing shows again. It should be interesting to see what these guys are all about in 1996, especially since we all know about Chain Of Strength. (Ambassador, 976 W. Foothill Blvd. Ste. 464, Claremont, CA 91711)

Cleons Down "s/t" 7"-Very few "emo" sounding bands manage to do the trick for me anymore, but this is somewhat of an exception. Sure, Cleons Down stick to formula with the standard low/loud trick and vocals that alternate between soft singing and gut wrenching screaming, but they do it well. Besides, this band features ex-members of Roosevelt's Inaugural Parade, so that should lure a bunch of you "emo" maniacs in right away. I can't say that midwest style "emo" core is exactly my cup of tea, but this is definitely worth looking in to. (Equal Consideration Printing, 6583 Maple Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346)

C.R. "s/t" 7"-Ten song 7"s are somewhat of a rarity these days, especially ten songs that never let up from start to finish. C.R. play some tight, fast, thrash hardcore that I suppose would be comparable to the whole Slap-A-Ham genre, but there's some definite mosh potential here too. The vocals are screamed and sincere to the point that you know the singer for this band has got to be hurting whenever they play, and I'm sure C.R. would be fun to see live. Hey, with a song titled "Jim Henson" it's pretty tough to go wrong, so pick this up and help me figure out what C.R. stands for. (Reservoir, P.O. Box 790366, Middle Village, NY 11379)

Damnation a.d. "Misericordia" 10"-Metal just bores me to death anymore (no pun intended), but Damnation a.d. always manages to somehow hold my interest. I'm not quite sure if it's the way these six heavy songs are arranged, with plenty of tempo changes and those oddball parts thrown in every now and then, or if it's the harsh vocals and dismal lyrics that attract me to this band. Either way, whenever I'm depressed and feel like drowning, I can always count on Damnation a.d. for the job. Funny, somehow I always feel a little bit better after spinning one of their records. (Jade Tree, 2310 Kennwynn Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810)

Death Wish Kids "There's Nothing In School They Can't Teach You On The Streets" 7"-With a name like Death Wish Kids and song titles such as "Hood", "Traitor", and "Outsider (Tribute To Dally)", it's pretty obvious that stealing, cheating, and punk rock are going to be the reoccurring themes throughout. Much to my surprise, the raw sounding recording is pretty good, as is the layout, and the seven songs here are about as snotty as they come. Sure, the Death Wish Kids sound does get a bit repetitious with the same fast drum beat in every song, and the harsh, screeching vocals do tend to drive me up the wall after a while, but this is a punk rock record, remember? I think the title for this 7" was taken from that old movie *Over The Edge*, which is about some kids who take over their school, so that alone should give you a pretty good idea as to what this record is all about. (Hopscotch, P.O. Box 1143, Cardiff, CA 92007)

Eleven Thirty-Four "Reality Filter" CD-Eleven Thirty-Four is a band that is kind of hard to categorize, as they play a style that falls right smack dab in between metal and hardcore, and don't wear any convenient labels like X's or carry tough guy attitudes, which I like. As for this CD, I can't say I like it completely, but most of the songs really take off. Four of the ten songs here appear on their previous two 7"s and there's a couple duds, but for the most part, this whole package is pretty solid, with some pretty good lyrics and a clean layout to boot. Although this didn't blow me away, I know there's a bunch of kids out there going apeshit over this band, and better these guys than someone like Earth Crisis. (New Age, P.O. Box 5213, Huntington Beach, CA 92615)

Enkindel "Some Assembly Required" CD-I can't honestly say I've ever been a huge fan of Enkindel, mostly due to the singer's off key vocals, and although his voice has improved 100% here, his monotonous tone just doesn't do it for me. Unfortunately, the music mostly follows the same path, and just kind of drags on with a few somewhat exciting parts here and there. Enkindel's latest recording is also severely over produced, and I even feel like the ultra-slick packaging here is overdone as well. I really hate to slam this because it looks and sounds like a lot of time and effort went into this whole thing, but I think a rawer sound and approach would have produced a much better product in the end. (Initial, P.O. Box 251145, W Bloomfield, MI 48325)

Ensign "s/t" 7"- I saw these guys play a little over a year ago, but they didn't have anything out at the time and I wasn't able to form much of an opinion from the short set they played. Well, a year later this 7" comes out, and I'm very impressed, to say the least. Ensign play some solid, late '80's sounding hardcore, with fast drums, shouted vocals, and some rather nice breakdowns. Sure, I suppose it has all been done before, but in an age of metal and college rock, I eat this stuff like candy. (Indecision, P.O. Box 5781, H.B., CA 92615)

Eyelid "...Days Infected" 7"- Quite a few people seem to be really excited about this band, and I guess I can kind of see why. Eyelid play some rather tough sounding, metal influenced hardcore along the lines of Unbroken, with hard, shouted vocals that drive home feelings of betrayal and mistrust. The music is very tight and all around solid, and the packaging here is top notch as well. I've also heard that these guys are quite good live, so you might want to keep an eye open for Eyelid. (Ammunition, P.O. Box 461, Bellflower, CA 90707)

Eyelid "Bleeding Through" 7"- Supposedly, this is a limited edition release and was only available on their 1996 summer tour, but I didn't see Eyelid play anytime this past summer and I managed to get one. This three song 7" features one song from the "...Days Infected" 7", plus two others that I believe are extra songs that didn't make that record. If you're already an Eyelid fan, then I'd definitely suggest seeking this one out. If not, I'd say check out this band's other 7" first. (Phyte, P.O. Box 14228, Santa Barbara, CA 93107)

Fall Silent "No Strength To Suffer" LP- The Reno hardcore scene has a pretty bad reputation for violence, so I was a bit skeptical when I received this in the mail. Most of the preconceived notions I held for this band were somewhat dispelled after reading the lyric sheet, but I figured Fall Silent would have a big metal influence, and boy was I right. Although these guys speed things up a bit every now and then, most of these songs trudge along at the same slow, heavy pace, and the vocals are strained and screamed. I definitely thought the cover of that awful '80's song "Heartbreaker" was a bit much and I certainly have to wonder about any band that includes the Reno Crips on their thanks list, but if metal is your thing, this is probably right up your alley. (Revolutionary Power Tools, P.O. Box 83694, San Diego, CA 92138)

Fastbreak "Don't Stop Trying" 7"- Well, it's 1996, and the Connecticut Brotherhood is on the rise again. Fastbreak features a couple members from CT's own Cornerstone, and play some similar sounding, "old school" influenced hardcore that is also reminiscent of that other quasi legendary CT band, Wide Awake. I think the singer of this band covered my feelings for this record well in Extent #7 when he said, "The energy and three chords and a kid running around is great", and besides, basketball is my favorite sport. I love it when they dribble up and down the court. (Third Party, 21 Nancy Ln., Amherst, NY 14228)

Good Riddance "A Comprehensive Guide To Moderne Rebellion" CD- I liked Good Riddance's first album quite a bit, but I can't say the majority of songs on this latest effort do much for me. Most of the songs here have taken on a poppier edge, and Russ Rankin's once gruff vocals have been cleaned up considerably as well. As much as I hate to say it, I really can't help but think of Bad Religion at times when I'm listening to this, and we all know that's not a good thing. Most of the personal/political style lyrics are pretty good, and there are a few songs that really hit home, so I guess this isn't all bad. (Fat Wreck Chords, P.O. Box 460144, SF, CA 94164)

Good Riddance/III Repute "It's Only Fun Until Someone Gets Hurt" 7"- What we have here is a split between two bands that both share the same style of fast-paced, energetic punk rock, but unfortunately only one of them really catches my ear. The first Good Riddance tune is typical Good Riddance with the trademark back-up vocal harmonies, but the second song explodes, and the raw sounding recording helps these tunes more than it hinders them, unlike their latest LP. III Repute, on the other hand, didn't do too much for me at all, which is probably due to the singer's gutter sounding style, and there's even some (god forbid) ska thrown in at the end of their second song. I'd say get this just for the Good Riddance songs, but if melodic, skate-influenced punk rock is your thing, you can't go wrong here. (It's Alive, P.O. Box 6326, Oxnard, CA 93031)

Halfmast "Deny Their Vision" CD- This is generic, SXE hardcore at it's finest, and yes, it's actually pretty good. Halfmast play that late '80's style with fast drums and shouted vocals that more and more bands seem to be resurrecting these days, and the lyrics cover traditional topics like remaining drug free and being stabbed in the back. I think this band has been around for a while, though, and have released a couple demos and 7's prior to this, but this is the first release I've actually heard from them. A friend of mine said these guys have been busting their ass to get some recognition, so check this out and give 'em some support. (Ambassador)

Hot Water Music "Push For Coin" CD- I've heard these guys referred to as the Bruce Springsteen of hardcore, but hell, if that's the case, I won't deny that I was born in the USA. Seriously, though, the brand of "emo" rock Hot Water Music cranks out really grabs me, and I've pretty much been listening to this continually since I got it. At first, I was a bit disappointed that this was only a four song CDEP, but now I actually think it's a good thing, mostly because these songs could get a little repetitious and my interest definitely began to fade halfway through their last CD. All in all, though, Two thumbs up here from me. (Happy Days, P.O. Box 4315, Highland Park, NJ 08904)

Hot Water Music "You Can Take The Boy Out Of Bradenton" 7"-First off, the artwork and layout here is easily some of the most eye pleasing work I've seen in some time, and should alone lure a few people into buying this record. Fortunately, the music here is equally impressive, which is more than I can say for the majority of great looking records out these days. The two songs featured here are really no departure from Hot Water Music's rockin', catchy style, although the title track is probably their "hardest" song yet. To be honest, this band can really do no wrong in my book, and I'd suggest jumping on the band wagon now before it's too late. (Schematics, no address)

H2O "s/t" CD-Ever since the whole NYHC youth crew explosion faded away, very few bands from the big apple have really managed to grab my attention, but H2O is a band that sticks out in a scene predominantly filled with hard-asses and gangsters these days. Admittedly, I was a bit wary of the incredible amount of hype surrounding this band, but H2O play a nice mix of pop influenced, "old school" sounding hardcore that seems to work for them. Sure, the packaging and band themselves look rather slick, and the sound bites between every song got old real fast, even upon first listen, but other than that, I suppose I don't have much to complain about. I can't honestly say I was completely won over by this, but H2O is a band that can appeal to many audiences and I would recommend checking this out no matter who you are. (Blackout!, P.O. Box 1575, NY, NY 10009)

Ignite/Good Riddance split 7"-In an attempt to unify the hardcore and punk scenes, Ignite and Good Riddance have teamed up for this here 7". Ignite sticks to their brand of Uniform Choice influenced, southern California style hardcore that has yet to let me down, and throw a cover of the Bad Brain's "Banned In D.C." our way as well. The Good Riddance songs on the other hand, took me completely by surprise, as they sound more like Born Against this time around than any of their Fat Wreck Chords labelmates. Hey, the concept behind this record is a cool one, and both bands here are two of the best today, in my book. (Revelation, P.O. Box 5232, H.B., CA 92615)

Ignite "Past Our Means" CD-Well, the cat is out of the bag that Ignite is not a SXE band and a ton of kids seem to be bummed on this band for one reason or another, but regardless of all that mumbo jumbo, these guys continue to rock my socks off. For those of you not familiar with Ignite, expect to hear some speedy, "old school" influenced tunes, with rad singing/screaming vocals and plenty of originality to keep things fresh. As for this CD, I was a bit disappointed in the fact that three of the six songs here were already released elsewhere (one of them being from the Good Riddance split), but I think they've been re-recorded and the production sounds a bit better now. I'd say ignore all the hype surrounding this band, and simply enjoy some good, solid hardcore. (Revelation)

Infest "Still Fighting" CD-I'm not too sure when this came out or how hard it is to get, but it is a treat, to say the least. This includes, what I believe, is everything Infest has ever released, as well as some live tracks and some rehearsal tracks. The sound quality is great, and the layout is pretty decent for a bootleg, although I was kind of pissed there were no lyrics included. Most of the stuff included here is pretty tough to find, so if you're into Infest or just plain like short, fast thrashers, I'd say seek this out, because these guys influenced a whole crop of bands to follow. (no address)

Ink And Dagger "Love Is Dead" 7"-This thing had my interest right from the start, mostly because of the awesome packaging and pictures of the band with painted white faces. The lyric sheet is a neat little tombstone that tucks into a picture of a graveyard on the cover, and vampires and other creatures of the night seem to be the theme here with song titles like "Bloodlust" and little vampire bats floating around the insert. Even the tunes here are good, and I'm pretty sure Ink And Dagger features ex-members of Crud Is A Cult, if that means anything at all to you. If you believe in bloodsucking, the theft of souls, nocturnal adventures, and punk rock, this 7" is for you. (Happy Days)

Kiss It Goodbye "Be Afraid" demo-Kiss It Goodbye features the recently departed Tim and Keith from Deadguy and an ex-member of Rorschach, so that alone should clue you in as to what's going on here. These four songs are heavy and driving, with strong bass lines, tight drumming, metal influenced guitars, and Tim's harsh, trademark vocals. The recording is top notch and all the songs are pretty good, but I was a bit disappointed when I didn't find a lyric sheet because these guys are some of the most sarcastic and bitter people out there. At any rate, most of the members of Kiss It Goodbye already have rather large reputations from their previous bands and word has it they're already signed to Revelation, so expect to hear some more from this band. (Kiss It Goodbye, 2312 NE 85th St. apt. B, Seattle, WA 98115)

Lifetime "The Boy's No Good" 7"-I like Lifetime as much as anyone, but I think this record is a bit of a waste. Honestly, the two songs on this record clock in at a combined time of about two and a half minutes, and the packaging is also quite minimal as well, with no lyrics included either, which is always a big no no. As for the music, these guys seem to get a bit poppier with each record they out, but not all that much has changed since "Hello Bastards." I don't know, I guess I'm just pissed because I paid \$3.50 for this record, and I'm sure both of these short songs will be included on their next record. (Jade Tree)

Nineironspitefire "Seventh Soul Sacrificed" 7"-Nineironspitefire is 2/5 Undertow, and if you put Deadguy and Undertow in a blender, this is probably what you'd come up with. John's vocals sound no different since the good old days, but the lyrics have taken on a more personal approach and the music is much more chaotic, with off-time beats and frenzied guitar work. One of the songs here is from the demo, but redone, and the other three songs fall along similar, experimental lines. This is no Undertow, that's for sure, but everything about this is rather solid and sound, so I guess I have no real complaints. (Indecision)

Parades End "s/t" 7"-I can't say that I liked the song Parades End had on the Indecision comp. too much, so I was pretty skeptical going into this. Well, the old vocalist for this band is out, and Parades End sound almost like an entirely different band. The vocals are now shared between both guitarists, with one sticking to mostly singing and the other screaming, and the music has taken a more melodic approach with lots of octave work and other guitar trickery. Everything about this 7" is well rounded, right down to the beautiful packaging, so if melodic, driving tunes are your thing, you should pick this up and support a very sincere and well put together effort from a much improved band. (The Wordsmith Covenant, P.O. Box 15645, Long Beach, CA 90815)

The Promise Ring "30 Everywhere" CD-Everyone seems to be ranting and raving about The Promise Ring these days for one reason or another, but I wasn't too impressed with any of their previous slew of 7"s and this full length left me wondering what all the hype is about as well. Featuring ex-members of Cap N' Jazz, Ceilishrine, and None Left Standing, The Promise Ring has been conveniently fitted with the label of "pop hooks with good looks," and these guys have been endlessly compared to Sunny Day Real Estate. The layout here is pretty damn artsy-fartsy, the lyrics are about as abstract as they get, and regardless of the fact that this does just about absolutely nothing for me, I'm sure there are a ton of kids eating this up. I have to admit, though, that some of the music is kind of dreamy, and this would probably be a good CD to fall asleep to if it wasn't for the singer's annoying, off-key vocals. (Jade Tree)

Propaghandi "Less Talk, More Rock" LP-I never really gave Propaghandi a fair shake before hearing this album, which is mostly due to the fact that I can't stand most of the NOFX clone bands on Fat Wreck Chords, and I sure have been missing out on a couple really good records. Now I know quite a few people who say this band falls right into that category, but I feel Propaghandi have their own sound, and there's definitely a sense of urgency here that sets this band apart from the rest. Granted, I think some of the lyrics and ideas expressed on this record are a bit heavy handed, especially for the Fat crowd, but I definitely don't have any complaints with what's being said and I think it's rad that the message here is being aimed an audience that doesn't necessarily want to hear about topics like sexism, sexuality, animal rights, and other related political themes. Propaghandi is a band stretching beyond the boundaries of preaching to the converted, which deserves respect, and hopefully their catchy tunes help others catch onto some new ideas. (Fat Wreck Chords)

Rain On The Parade "Body Bag" 7"-Starting with the pencil drawn cover and right down to the three chord style, this screams old style hardcore. Rain On The Parade play a nice mix of fast and slow songs, with some of the most honest and sarcastic lyrics I've seen in awhile. Much like Half Off, these guys pretty much tell it like it is, and a number of people should probably take some notes from the nine songs here, myself included. Check this out and get a little dose of the truth. (Contention, 206 S 13th St. apt. 1402, Philadelphia, PA 19107)

Slapshot "Old Tyme Hardcore" CD-It seems Slapshot have finally fully redeemed themselves after taking the same rockin' path that fellow Boston bands SSD and DYS did, and although I can't say I've ever been a huge Slapshot fan, this is OK. What we have here are twelve songs of pure, old time hardcore, complete with the same fast drum beat throughout every song and Choke's trademark barking vocals. These songs do get quite repetitious and somewhat boring after repeated listens, but the lyrics are pretty right on for the most part and this does do some justice when I'm pissed off and feeling bitter. I'm sure a lot of people aren't too happy that these guys are playing hardcore again after their failed rock n' roll career, but I suppose diehard Slapshot fans will be pretty excited about this. (Taang!, 706 Pismo Ct., San Diego, CA 92109)

State Route 522 "s/t" 7"-State Route 522 hail from the often forgotten Northwest, and play some tunes that I suppose would fall under the "nice and pretty" category. I can't really get into many of these types of bands anymore, but I honestly dig this record a bunch. These guys and one gal have put together one of the best eight track recordings I've heard, as well as four well arranged songs with good lyrics and some rather nice vocals. If the whole "emo" thing is at all your cup of tea, you should probably pick this up, because I guarantee you won't be let down. (Henry's Finest Recordings, NE 145th St., Woodinville, WA 98072)

Strength 691 "s/t" 7"-I don't know too much about this band, but I definitely like what I here. Parts of this remind me a bit of Lifetime, with fast drums and melodic guitars, but Strength 691 also break it down into some heavier parts with lots of groove and guitar picking action. The vocals sway more toward singing, but this guy can easily hold his own and the vocals compliment the music well. All in all, everything about this 7" is well done, and with good, solid hardcore being somewhat of a commodity these days, I don't know why more people aren't talking about this band. (Orphaned, 349 S Union St., Crawford, NJ 07016)

Submission Hold "Garlic For Victory" 7"-The folks at HeartattaCk seem to be pretty excited about this band, and I'm sure the seven politically charged songs on this 7" would be right up any Ebullition records fan's alley. The four track recording here is a bit shaky and doesn't really do this band any justice in comparison to their live show, but the packaging is excellent and the ideas expressed are sincere and intelligent. I can't really get into the guitarist's unconventional style and the Spitboy-esque vocals aren't exactly my thing either, but some of the bass lines get pretty damn technical and I dig the occasional back-up screams. This 7" pales in comparison to what Submission Hold is capable of live, but if political punk rock gets your motor running, look no further. (Hopscotch)

Sweetbelly Freakdown "s/t" 7"-With a name like Sweetbelly Freakdown, I probably would've passed this 7" right up, that is, until I read the names on the back cover and realized that this band with the god awful name is basically Swiz undercover. Now I know tons of people are probably going nuts over this record just because of who's in the band, but I have to be honest, the two songs featured here didn't do much for me. Sure, the vocals and guitar recall the days of Swiz gone by, but these songs seriously lack the punch and energy that made Sweetbelly Freakdown's alter-ego so good. I don't know, I suppose it's much too soon to form much of an opinion yet, but this 7" got my hopes up and left me hanging high and dry. (Jade Tree)

Today Is The Day/ The Automatic Few 7"-As if getting the 'zine itself isn't enough already, this 7" is included free with Change 'zine #8. What we have here are two songs from each band, as well as some sound bites from interviews and some weird background music that was taken from various movies like *Conan The Barbarian*, *The Unforgiven*, and *The Usual Suspects*. While I've never heard either of these band before, the singer of Today Is The Day always has something interesting to say, and both bands are pretty good. More than anything, you need Change 'zine #8, but who can argue with a free 7"? (Change, 45 West Ave. #4, Norwalk, CT 06854)

Trial "Through The Darkest Days" 7"-Pictures of the band and the crowd going nuts on the cover is exactly what I like to see, and fast paced, '88 style hardcore is exactly what I like to hear. As far as I'm concerned, this is prime air guitar material, and it would be worth it to get caught strumming away to this any day. Unfortunately, with the type of music these guys play and lyrics covering topics like betrayal, animal rights, rape, and "the kids", I'm sure a million people will just discard Trial as another dime a dozen SXE band. The thing is, these guys are sincere and dedicated to hardcore, and no matter how cheesy or typical anyone says this 7" is, this is the kind of stuff that keeps me coming back for more. (CrimethInc., 2695 Rangewood Dr., Atlanta, GA 30345)

Turmoil "From Bleeding Hands" CD-So you're mad at the world and you have nowhere to turn, but at least you have the new Turmoil CD, right? The guys in Turmoil have dropped the tough guy image and the Helmet influence that ruined their first couple release for me, and have added some much needed chaos, harshened up the vocals, and put together some rather nice lyrics about topics like the media, betrayal, religion, and the struggle of the American Indian. I especially liked the lyrics to "Fuse", which I think is about the unabomber, and I've also heard these guys play an Alone In The Crowd cover live, earning them all the more points with me. Fans of the original Deadguy line-up should be going nuts over this thing, and although I'm not too happy that this is on a major label, it is easily one of the better releases I've heard in a while. (Century Media)

Turned Down "Odd Jobs" demo-This band features Andrew from Strife on bass, but don't expect Rick Rodney to come piling into the crowd at the strike of the first note. Turned Down instead opt for a southern California style pop punk sound along the lines of Game Face, and have managed to put together a rather nice demo, with quality sound and packaging. The one thing, though, that I really like about this band is that they smile and laugh and spit all over each other when they play, and it generally looks like they're having the time of their lives. Check these guys out if you could use a smile, because I'll bet you just might find one here. (Turned Down, 2078 Hendrix Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360)

Unbroken "Circa '77" 7"-This posthumous two song 7" marks the end for Unbroken, and doesn't stray too far from what's to be expected of this band. Sure, Unbroken seemed to improve with every record they released, but I don't see much of a difference between this 7" and their last 7". Although "Crushed On You" does take on a bit of melody, the vocals and music remain hard and heavy, and I guess my only real complaint is with the long, repetitious end to "Absentee Debate." This record is pretty good, but I think it's safe to say the guys in Unbroken knew what they were doing when they decided to call it quits. (New Age)

V/A "Anti-Matter" CD-In case you've never had the pleasure, Anti-Matter (or Anti, as the name was changed toward the end) was easily one of the best 'zines to surface during the early to mid '90's, and this compilation has been put together by the man behind the monster, Norm Arenas. I guess the sixteen bands showcased here are a reflection of the modern hardcore scene Norm worked so hard to promote with his 'zine, and the variety of styles that have infiltrated the scene in the past five years or so have been represented here, with some real standouts (Outspoken, Threadbare, Undertow, Lifetime, Mouthpiece), some better than average (Quicksand, Game Face, 108, Strife), some close to shit (Supertouch, CIV), and five others. Much to my surprise, the lyrics were left out of the layout, but excerpts from Anti-Matter, the 'zine, have been included for each band, as well as an explanation as to what this comp. is supposedly all about. I suppose this is a proper burial for a once great 'zine, and most of the bands featured here are really worth your time. (Another Planet, 740 Broadway, NY, NY 10003)

V/A "Bringing It Back" 7"-This 7" is the first in a supposed series of California comp. 7"s, and was slated to come out eons ago. Volume 1 features the likes of Outspoken, Ignite, Blackspot, and Remain, and while all the bands have pretty decent offerings, this is easily worth it for the Outspoken song alone. (Incidentally, this song also appears on the Anti-Matter comp.) There is no lyric sheet included, which I think is mostly due to the fact that this was a bit rushed in it's final stages, and of course, that's an automatic demerit. I also think it's a bit odd that this 7" comp. is titled "Bringing It Back" when two of the bands included were broken up long before this ever came out, but despite my nit-picking, I would recommend getting this, if only for the final Outspoken song. (Ammunition)

V/A "A Document Of Nothing" CD-I guess the folks at Second Nature decided doing one of today's better 'zines wasn't enough, and decided to start a record label as well. Their first release is a fifteen band comp. that includes a bunch of different bands with a variety of styles that range from indie rock to metal, with the standouts being 2 Line Filler and Despair. Of course, the layout is top notch, and lyrics and addresses are included for all the bands. I paid \$8.00 for this thing brand new, which is a nice price, so be sure to check this out. (Second Nature, P.O. Box 11543, Kansas City, MO 64138)

Zine Reviews

I know the 'zine review section is only about a third of the size of the record review section, but the quality of it's contents equals, if not surpasses, that of the many record's and CD's out there. Sure, there may only be about ten or so really great 'zines that come out on a regular basis, but all of them are damn good and deserve your support more than that last shitty 7" you bought. It still amazes me how many kids neglect the importance of 'zines to the scene, and I just don't understand how someone with a true passion for the music could function without the help of these mostly underground publications. I enjoy good 'zines just as much as my favorite records, so if you do a 'zine, trade some issues with me or something and help this section grow.

All That #9-Honestly, this is as slick as any magazine covering hardcore bands is going to get, and I've heard some call All That the "Rolling Stone" of punk, hardcore, and metal. I can't deny that it's a bit strange to see interviews with bands like Down By Law and Deadguy alongside chats with Type O Negative and Corrosion Of Conformity, and while I'm not sure that I approve, All That #9 kept me entertained and informed at the same time. Besides mandatory things like reviews and such, this issue also includes interviews and/or articles with Bad Religion, My Dying Bride, A.F.I., Millencolin, Crisis, Gigantor, and Neurosis, and even comes with a free sampler CD that includes too many bands to mention. Call me crazy, but I'd take a good cut and paste 'zine any day over the ultra-slick, corporate look of All That. (\$5 to P.O. Box 1520, Cooper Station, NY 10276)

Change #8-Of the ten or so really good 'zines going strong today, I'd have to say that Change 'zine holds the distinction of being number one in my book, and for a couple of reasons. Not only is every issue of Change thick as hell and packed full of quality reading and information, but Pat and his "line-up" are easily some of the most outspoken and hilarious folks out there. Change #8 features good interviews with Kiss It Goodbye, The Pist, Seven Years War, and Voorhees, as well as the usual scene commentary, reviews, basketball stuff, Simpson's stuff, and all sorts of other goodies. Hell, you even get a free Today Is The Day/ The Automatic Few 7" with this issue, so if you know what's good for you, get a copy of Change 'zine NOW! (\$2 to 45 West Ave. #4, Norwalk, CT 06854)

Dogprint #7-Lenny is probably one of the nicest people involved with hardcore these days, and Dogprint is easily one of the more solid 'zines out there. Besides a couple articles, a letter's section, and some reviews, Dogprint consists mostly of interviews, and issue #7 has Q and A's with Good Riddance, The Promise Ring, Millencolin, Weston, Matewan/Chapter Records, Rain Still Falls, and Two Line Filler. Lenny has also included "profiles" on a number of bands, which unfortunately are just reprinted "bios" from record labels. Besides the "profiles" and the fact that this issue read rather quick, I'd recommend giving Dogprint a shot, and I know I'm looking forward to Lenny's next issue. (\$2 to P.O. Box 84, Suffern, NY 10901)

Extent #7-There are only a handful of 'zines that I can honestly say I look forward to seeing the next issue of, but Extent is definitely one of them. Extent #7 features interviews with Rick Rodney of Strife, Victory Records, Damnation a.d., and Fastbreak, alongside the usual slew of record and 'zine reviews, columns, and pictures. I got a big kick out of the best and worst record covers article, even though 7 Seconds "Walk Together, Rock Together" was appointed one of the worst, and John's two color layout is very eye pleasing. Hey, this thing is only \$3 postage paid and comes with an eighteen band CD sampler, so if you don't have this already, I don't know what you're waiting for. (\$3 to P.O. Box 116, Boston, MA 02120)

Get In The Van-There are so few books out there concerning punks vast history that Henry Rollins' *Get In The Van* stands out as some pretty vital reading, and some rather interesting and entertaining reading at that. Basically, this book is a collection of Rollins' tour diaries from the years '81-'85, and provides us with a look at life on the road and inside the infamous Black Flag. While I can't say I ever liked Black Flag once old Hank got in the band, I can say I enjoyed this book, and Rollins' sobering look at life and near insanity at times. Whether you read on a regular basis or not, I would really recommend giving this book a shot, especially if you were ever into Black Flag or are merely interested in a better understanding of the punk rock attitude and lifestyle. (2.13.61, P.O. Box 1910, Los Angeles, CA 90078)

Hardware #9-I don't know if you've read the interview with the Hardware guys in this issue of help yet, but you should know that Dave and Brett are dedicated to hardcore, and that's good enough reason alone to pick this mag up. Their latest issue features interviews with Mouthpiece and Catharsis, some older interviews with the likes of Krakdown, Infest, B'last, Absolution, and Downcast, and the usual reviews, opinions, and memories. Although Hardware #9 read a bit faster than their awesome issue #8, I always enjoy this 'zine and look forward to the next issue. Hey, according to Dave, '97 promises big things for Hardware, so if you haven't checked this 'zine out yet, you better make a New Year's Resolution to do so. (\$2 to 120 Coolidge St. 2nd Fl., Linden, NJ 07036)

Icarus Was Right #3-I don't think I've ever seen a 'zine as well put together and diverse as Icarus Was Right, and undoubtedly, a ton of work goes into the production of this 'zine. Scott and company's latest issue is 112 packed pages of pure reading pleasure, and includes interviews with Unwound and The Promise Ring, articles on the internet, the unabomber, consumerism, Food Not Bombs, censorship, and the anti-culture, not to mention reviews of just about everything, including records, 'zines, books, and movies. Icarus Was Right is also probably the best looking 'zine in existence right now, so you should pick this up if only for that reason alone. Besides, there is something in here for everyone, and I think it's safe to say you won't be let down. (\$2 to P.O. Box 191175, San Diego, CA 92159)

In Effect #5-In Effect is the self appointed New York hardcore 'zine, and consequently only features NYHC bands. This time around we find interviews with Madball, H2O, Both Worlds, Farenheit 451, Shutdown, and One 4 One, with a bunch of record, 'zine, and show reviews and a news section that covers just about every NYHC band imaginable. I'm not too into the whole NY thing, but In Effect is a well done 'zine that can definitely hold my interest. Check this out, and see what The Big Apple has to offer. (\$2 to 119-16 8th Ave., College Point, NY 11356)

No Labels #3-No Labels is another 'zine based out of NY, but Mike tends to stray away a bit from the NYHC scene. Interviews in this issue include Snapcase, CIV, Gavin Oglesby, and an Anti-Matter eulogy of sorts from the one and only Norm Arenas, as well as a bunch of reviews, a few articles, and a Vent 7". My only complaint is that Mike and his friends tend to give almost everything a good review, but otherwise, No Labels is more than impressive. Hey, this is quite the deal for only \$4, so send Mike your allowance soon. (\$4 to 1148 Fifth Ave. #7d, NY, NY 10128)

Rust #4-Rust is a very well put together 'zine based out of Seattle, which just so happens to be one of my favorite cities in America. Anyway, the fourth installment of this Northwest scene 'zine features interviews with Today Is The Day, Sensefield, Both Worlds, Kiss It Goodbye, and also includes an informative article on setting up shows, an Italian scene report, local and vegan news, and a fun article on choosing your axe. (That's a guitar, you knuckleheads.) I suppose if you can pass the Hardcore 101 exam Rust offers, then you're probably worthy enough to read it. All jokes aside, though, this is a really good 'zine that you should check out, even though the cover might make your eyes go buggy. (\$2 to P.O. Box 2293, Seattle, WA 98111)

Second Nature #4-This latest issue of Second Nature has been out for some time now, but this 'zine is definitely one of the better publications running right now and deserves recognition. Second Nature #4 weighs in at 72 thick pages, and features good interviews with Enkidel, Two Line Filler, Matt Hensley, Damnation a.d., and Despair. The usual batch of excellent photos, a letter's section, and tons of reviews round this one out, earning this 'zine another A+ with me. My bet is that Dan and his crew will have another packed issue of hardcore and skateboarding related stuff out by the time you read this, but in the meantime, you should definitely spend your hard earned money on a copy of Second Nature #4. (\$2 to P.O. Box 11543, Kansas City, MO 64138)

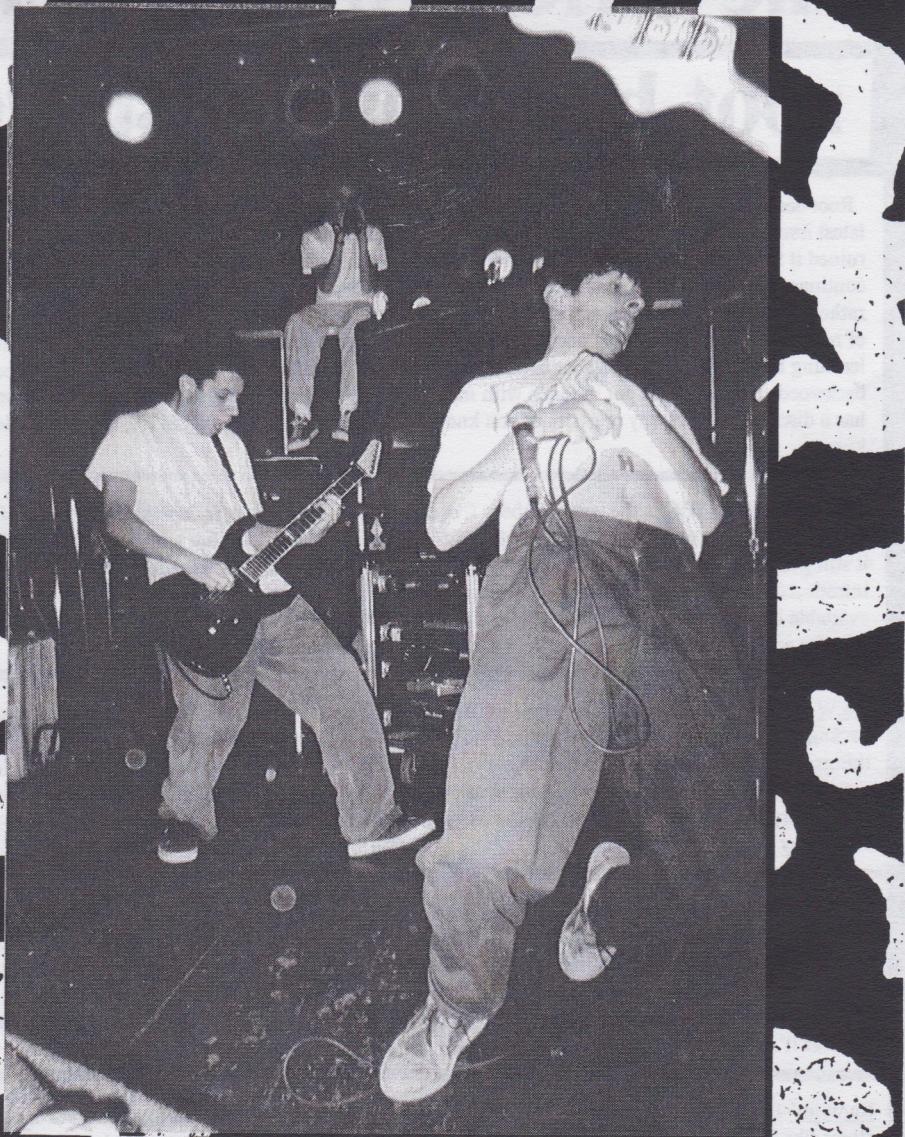
Unabomber's Manifesto-The folks behind Icarus Was Right decided to print this thing up and sell it cheap, mostly to give everyone a better understanding of the media manipulated unabomber. This is the uncut version that first appeared in The New York Times, in it's entirety and in order, unlike the countless pieces that were used by the media to make the unabomber look like a complete madman. I'm certainly not saying I agree with the Unabomber's method of direct action, mostly because I don't know too much about the whole story, but I can tell you that most of his manifesto makes a lot of sense. I guarantee this thing will make you think about yourself and the world around you, so why not pick up a copy and feed that brain of yours. (\$2 to P.O. Box 191175, San Diego, CA 92159)



FUGAZI



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FLASH
FOR

The official help fanzine

root beer taste test '96

Root beer is easily one of the best beverages out there, and countless kegs of the stuff have fueled this latest issue of help. Someone once told me they thought root beer tasted like toothpaste, which almost ruined it for me because some of the shadier brands actually do, but I have since bounced back and continue to consume great quantities on a daily basis. Now I'll be the first to admit that there are some rather rotten root beers out there, so as to avoid any sour taste buds or wasted cash, I've compiled a list of reviews of the different root beers I've tasted over the past year or so. I'd also be interested in learning how to brew my own root beer, so if anyone out there has any information on the subject or a backwoods recipe, please get in touch with me. Anyway, read on, and if you're a root beer fanatic who has a discrepancy with my opinion, or you know of a brand you think I should try, be sure and let me know.

IBC-Hands down, IBC is the best root beer I've tasted yet. The folks at Independent Breweries Co. have put together a nice mix here, with enough "bite" to make it memorable, but without overdoing things, so it still goes down smooth when it comes time for a chug-a-lug with your friends. Besides, IBC was first introduced during prohibition, and no other root beer out there can beat that mark in history. IBC is available in 12 oz. bottles that look just like beers or the ever so popular quart size 32 ouncer, making it easy for any SXE kid to mix and mingle at even the most raging of parties.

A&W-A&W comes in at a close second to IBC, which is mostly because of IBC's great history and neat packaging. As far as taste goes, though, I'd say A&W is right up there with IBC. I'll tell you, few things can compete with an ice cold, frosty mug of A&W root beer on a hot summer's day, and like IBC, the creators of A&W have concocted an even mix of spice and smoothness. Like I said, the packaging and history of these two root beers are the only things that set them apart, and honestly, I'd take an A&W any day.

Old Keg-Old Keg is some pretty damn good root beer, especially for being one of the little guys, but I'm not too sure if it's available nationwide. Although I haven't seen Old Keg in awhile, I used to buy a can every now and then because of the reasonable price and good taste. Like IBC and A&W, there's smoothness and spice with this root beer, and I haven't had a dud yet when it comes to Old Keg. The smaller brands can't really hang with the big daddy's like IBC and A&W, but Old Keg comes about as close as it's going to get.

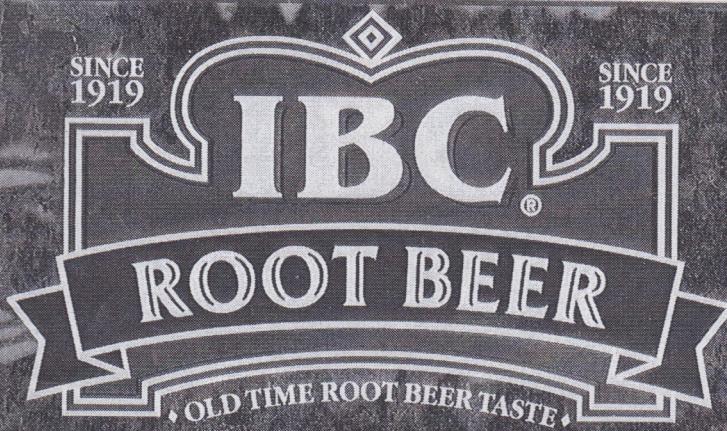
Ramblin'-I've never seen Ramblin' root beer available anywhere besides soda fountains at convenience stores like 7-11 or AM/PM or at an occasional restaurant, and I think it's pretty tough to find nowadays. I'm almost certain Barq's bought most of this co. out, which is too bad, as you'll soon find out how I feel about Barq's. At any rate, in it's heyday, Ramblin' root beer could compete with the big guys like IBC and A&W, and I was never disappointed if I had to settle for Ramblin'. I suppose it's no big loss if Ramblin' root beer no longer exists, but I'd rather see Ramblin' than Barq's any day.

Barq's-I used to drink a lot of Barq's, especially when the cases used to come with those nifty rub-on tattoos, but I can't say I like it much other than that. Barq's main claim to fame is it's "bite", but that's pretty much what ruined it for me. This root beer is just way too spicy to drink fast without burning your throat, and when I'm thirsty, I want something that goes down nice and smooth. Maybe I could choke a few of these down if they brought back the tattoos, but otherwise, Barq's sucks in my book.

Stewart's-Initially, I was attracted to Stewart's because of the neat little keg-shaped 16 oz. bottle and pseudo 40 oz. quart size bottle it's available in, but other than the cool packaging, this root beer falls flat. I honestly think the creators of Stewart's forgot to add carbonation to the recipe, because drinking this is like slamming melted butterscotch. Sure, the first couple of sips might taste pretty good, but Stewart's is lacking the crucial spices it needs to make it any sort of real contender. Don't be fooled by the fancy packaging like I was, because this root beer is not the fancy product it appears to be.

Mug-I don't know what it is with Mug these days, but they have fallen far short of my expectations lately. I used to really like Mug, because like IBC and A&W, it had a pretty close mix of spice and smoothness, but someone must have changed the formula behind this root beer in the past year or so. A few of my friends had been complaining about having rotten batches of Mug before I took a taste for myself, and after getting what tasted like a mouthful of melted wax, Mug definitely gets the middle finger from me. The funny thing is that Mug is currently campaigning to become America's official root beer, but with this new formula, I don't see that happening any time soon.

Dad's-I'm not even sure if this root beer is made anymore, but it wouldn't surprise me one bit if these guys went out of business. As far as root beer goes, Dad's sits at the bottom of the barrel, and I wouldn't recommend this piss to anyone. Every can of Dad's I've ever had has been flat, and I have long since given up on this stuff altogether. My advice to you would be to do the same, because otherwise you're only wasting your money and hurting your taste buds.



Independent Breweries Company first introduced IBC Root Beer during Prohibition. Today the original 1919 taste is carried on in every bottle of IBC soft drinks.

WARNING

CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE. HANDLE WITH CARE. GLASS MAY EXPLODE OR CAP MAY BLOW OFF, CAUSING EYE OR OTHER SERIOUS INJURY. POINT AWAY FROM PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WHILE OPENING.



Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 8 fl oz (240 mL)
Servings Per Container: 4

Amount Per Serving
Calories 110

% Daily Value*

Total Fat 0g	0%
Sodium 40mg	2%
Total Carb. 29g	10%
Sugars 29g	
Protein 0g	

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

NO CAFFEINE

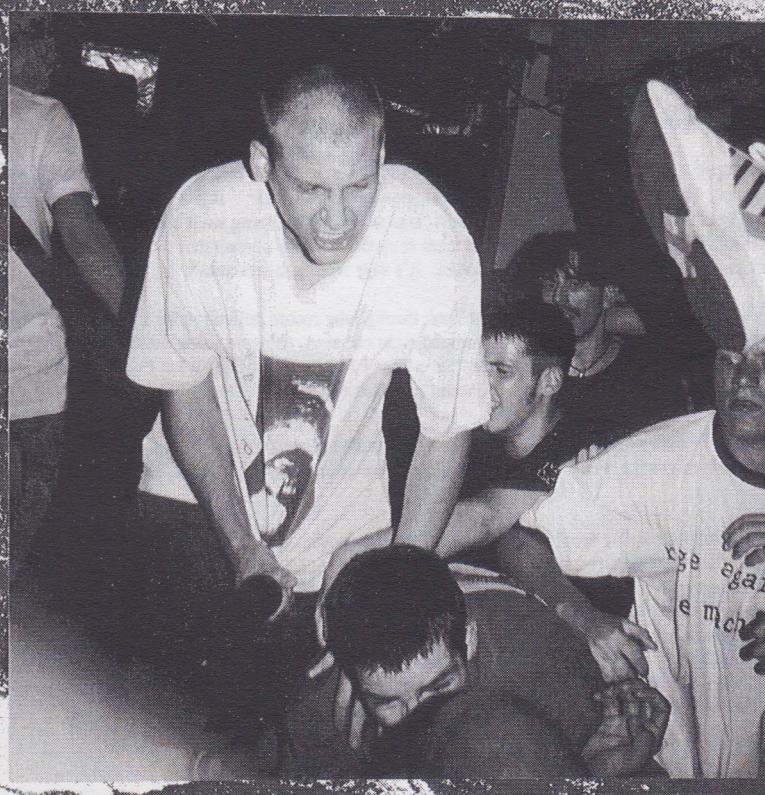
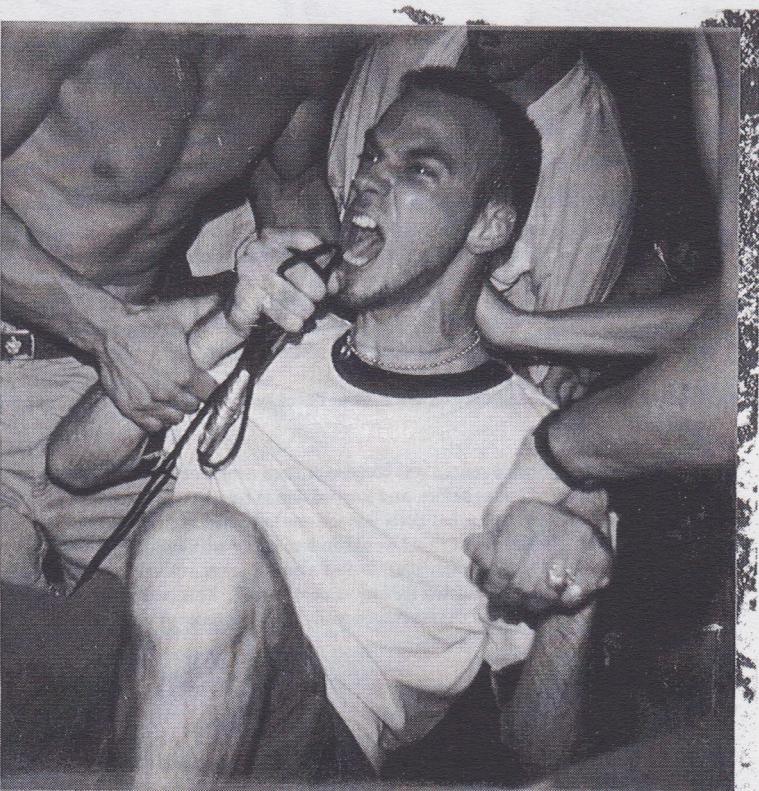
CARBONATED WATER, HIGH
FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP AND/OR
SUGAR, CARAMEL COLOR, SODIUM
BENZOATE (PRESERVATIVE),
ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL FLAVORS,
FOOD STARCH - MODIFIED, CITRIC
ACID.

**BRINGING
IT BACK**



DISEMBODIED

BB
BROTHER'S
KEEPER



DESPAIR

HARDWARE

Hardware is easily one of the most well put together and consistent fanzines running to date, and when I had the chance to interview Dave Koenig and Brett Beach, the outspoken editors behind it all, I jumped right on it. Accused of glorifying and reliving the past, Dave and Brett have successfully used Hardware as a sort of hardcore history book by printing interviews with older bands and retelling stories of various days gone by, but at the same time, Hardware doesn't neglect today's scene either, which is something many of their critics often tend to overlook. I guess you either hate Hardware or you love it, and here's what Dave and Brett had to say.

What made you decide to take on the ever so thankless task of doing a 'zine, and what keeps you inspired to continue?

Dave-The reason Hardware started was because of Brett consistently nagging me to do one with him. I had done a couple of well received 'zines before, and stopped due to disgust of what was happening at the time. Actually, many people were bugging me, but Brett was the one to be the catalyst. At some show at Jon Hiltz's in New Jersey, I made an announcement that I would do something with Brett. He knew fully well what he was getting into (working with me can be annoying), so that's how it began. What keeps me inspired? Maybe it's just because I want kids today to have something halfway decent to read. This past summer I was really getting down on it because of many factors, but a couple people really lit a fire under my ass, so it looks like Hardware will continue on, for a while at least.

Brett-I always wanted to be involved in hardcore in a non-spectator role, but for a long time I did nothing about it. (Actually, I worked on three separate 'zines over the course of a few years, but none of them ever really came out.) I think I have a pretty good grasp of the English language, and I had a clear vision of what I wanted to accomplish with a fanzine, plus I have no musical talent and a bad voice, so doing a band was never a possibility. I realized early on that I couldn't do a quality 'zine alone, but I couldn't do it with just anyone either. Dave had plenty of experience from his other 'zines, and we knew each other for quite some time, although it did take some prodding to finally get him back in the fanzine arena. Doing a 'zine isn't so thankless to me, because we get a lot of recognition. There are still good bands that I want to write about and records to review, so I guess as long as there is a scene, I'll have some motivation to do a 'zine.

For those that don't know, what's the story behind the name Hardware?

Dave-Hardware is a song by Septic Death, a band both Brett and I like very much. They were fronted by Pushead, who is now a very famous artist. The main lyric is, "make an effort, show your hardware." It is a very inspirational song and I suggested it to Brett. We looked for other 'zine titles first by doing what every other hardcore kid would do; go through his or record collection and steal song titles. I can't remember the other ones we might have chosen, but I'm very glad we decided on Hardware. It's very simple to remember.

Brett-I figured the best way to find a name for a fanzine was to look through my record collection for a good song title or lyrics that I could lift. "Hardware," by Septic Death, jumped right out at us. It's one word, which I like, plus the lyrics are very appropriate. You can find them on the "Now That I Got the Attention, What Do I Do With It?" LP. I won't repeat them here, because I think everyone should own that record.

Nowadays it seems like 'zines are everywhere, but there are only a handful of really good ones out there. What are some of the better 'zines you've seen lately, and what, in your opinion, makes a 'zine stand apart from all the rest?

Dave-Some of the better 'zines out there today are Change, Belief, Extent, Retrogression, Inside Front, Icarus Was Right, S-854 (a.k.a. Dilirium), Factsheet Five (which is just reviews of 'zines), In-Effect, No Labels, Engine (if Matt Average would get it out faster), It's Alive, and a few others I've forgotten. When I get a copy of most of these 'zines, I generally drop everything and read them. A good 'zine (music wise) should have good interviews with interesting bands, solid layouts, pictures, content, content, and more content, and a lot of record and 'zine reviews. Those are important because I like to know what people are thinking about all these damn records that come out. The cool thing is, most of these 'zines pretty much started or came into their own the same time Hardware did. I'd like to think we were a motivating force behind the recent "good fanzine" thing.

Brett-Good hardcore fanzines have been few and far between since the late '80's, I guess because hardcore has splintered in so many directions. A couple of my faves are In Effect and It's Alive. Those guys cover their local scene (NYC and Oxnard, CA, respectively) very well, plus they are only concerned with hardcore bands. Words Carved Into My Head, which is a Mouthpiece tribute type fanzine out of Europe, looks great in my opinion. Those guys love hardcore, and it shows. I don't give a shit about a lot of things people like to put in their fanzines, and I don't want to read it. Although the number of one page 'zines has decreased lately, I still think they should be banned. With rare exceptions, they are filled with crap. Attention to detail is everything, so if a 'zine is well laid out and looks like an adequate amount of time has been put into it, half the battle has been won. Of course, content is 99% of the 'zine.

What are some of the biggest stumbling blocks you've encountered in doing Hardware, and what advice would you have for someone who is thinking about doing a 'zine?

Dave-I'll tell you the biggest stumbling block is not getting photos from people. That's the biggie. The second is probably getting money from distros, but it's less annoying as of late, as I understand the business side of things more and more. For all of you people thinking about starting a 'zine, be sure you know what you want to do and do it well. Don't rush together twenty pages and try to call it a "zine" and ask people to give you money for it. You'll want your 'zine to be good enough that people are going to look forward to the next one. I get a lot of fanzines in the mail that I just throw out because I'm insulted by the lack of effort that goes into them. If you don't want to take the time and effort to put something out people are going to remember five or ten years down the road, don't bother.

Brett-Pictures are always the biggest pain in the ass. Getting them and properly reproducing them is the biggest hassle in the world. Actually, just getting them from people isn't half as annoying as dealing with idiotic art students at Kinko's when it comes time to get them screened. I would like to strangle most of the brain-dead morons I've had to deal with. Organization and dedication are to of the most important factors in doing a good 'zine. Without good organization skills most everything will be a failure, and if you really don't want to do a quality fanzine, that will show through in the final product.

HARDWARE

**MAKE AN EFFORT SHOW YOUR HARDWARE
STAND UNITED LIVE HARDWARE STAY ACTIVE
BUILD YOUR HARDWARE THE TOOLS OF
PRIDE, EXIST INSIDE, YOUR CREATIVE
NATURE, COMES FORTH TO BE, HARDWARE
CAN'T HIDE!**

Major labels have stirred up quite a controversy in the punk/hardcore scene as of late. Do you feel 'zinesters should steer clear of major labels and big distribution, or vice-versa?

Dave-Actually, the major label thing was the big issue about five or six years ago. I was involved in one of the biggest "boycotts" in 1990 when I wrote a letter to MRR about bands like Sick of it All and others signing to major indies. I lost a lot of friends over it. Looking back, I feel I was correct, but I went about it in the wrong way. The bands these days that get signed to major labels (i.e. Civ) I really don't give two shits about, so it doesn't affect me at all. Steal whatever you can from these labels, they really don't care about you, so why should you care about them? The main thing is if you like the band, who cares what label they are on? Hardware doesn't take major label advertising. We think it's more important to promote underground stuff, especially bands and 'zines from our local (NJ) scene. We are still very grass roots.

Brett-The major label controversy has always been a problem in hardcore, and it will probably always be that way. If someone wants to market their 'zine in that manner, then I have no problem with it, but their 'zine will probably suck. For the most part, I know nothing about that scene and the bands that are in it. Hardware will always be a hardcore fanzine for a hardcore audience. I can't see anyone in a book store or a major record store wanting to buy a magazine full of a bunch of bands they know nothing about.

Both of you have been involved in the punk/hardcore scene for quite some time, so what major changes have you seen over the years and what is wrong with the scene today?

HARDWARE

YOUTH OF
TODAY

FANZINE \$7.00

LATE SUMMER 1994

ALONE IN A CROWD

Dave Smalley

YOUTH BRIGADE

REVIEWS
OPINIONS
FLYER ART



HARDWARE

HARDCORE FANZINE

WINTER '95

\$1.00

DEVOID
OF
FAITH

THRASHERS ATTACK!!
LOS CRUDOS

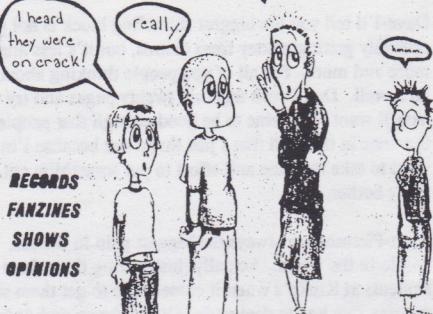
assfactor 4
MONSTER X

Yeah Brett and Dave from
Hardware, they're not straight-edge.
they're a couple of ravers.

I heard
they were
on crack!

really...

RECORDS
FANZINES
SHOWS
OPINIONS



Dave-There really has been too many changes in punk/HC over the years to list. I personally have seen people come and go. Trends come and go. Bands come and go. But as long as there are people who are serious about punk and hardcore, it will keep going on and on. The latest craze around here has been the revitalization of the "youth crew" or "88" sound. It has really brought people together, and people are having fun at shows once again. For a while there, it was kind of stale. What's wrong with the scene today? Same that has been wrong with it since the beginning: violence, fake people, fashion plates, etc... and bad metal bands. I still keep coming back for more, though.

Brett-Back when I first got into it, it seemed that everybody loved hardcore. That may seem obvious, but since the scene has splintered in so many directions over the past five years or so, people's musical tastes have diversified greatly. There's still a few people who like the brand of hardcore I subscribe to, but most don't. There are a lot of people out there who used to be into hardcore as much as I am, but they think it is their position to put me down and look on hardcore as some immature thing they grew out of. To those people I say: get your straight-edge tattoos covered up with stupid shit, then get the fuck out of the scene and shut your mouth. If hardcore is so stupid, then find a new audience to play your shit pop punk to and sell your crappy shirt's and CD's to. Also, kids today have to get into the older bands. It's just like studying history in school.

On the other hand, what are some things that have changed for the better since you first got involved?

Dave-Things which have changed for the better are peoples attitudes towards HC in general. Lately there has been a general unity amongst local bands and scenesters. Globally, I can't comment, because I'm really only involved on a local level.

Brett-More people seem willing to get involved these days. It seems like a lot of kids can start up a 'zine or put on a show or do a record label easier than in the past, which is probably due to the attention placed on the so-called "DIY ethic." Even if the result is a miserable failure, I still have to respect people for trying to do something positive and constructive, and it seems there are a lot of people trying.

I know Brett touched on it a bit in Hardware #8, but what about the review Hardware was given in HeartattaCk #8?

Dave-I really don't let reviews effect me that much. We do get many glowing reviews, so the few bad ones don't really get to me. Brett was mad about the way it was put, so he wrote about it. HeartattaCk has it's good and bad points. We are both putting out a music 'zine and we both have our agendas. We definitely don't see eye to eye on what HC is all about.

Brett-That whole thing demonstrates my point from question #6 perfectly. I guess Kent didn't think for one second that someone may actually like the bands that he considers beneath him, like Sick of it All or the Cro-Mags. When I read that review I was so fumed that I sat down at my computer and ripped out that rebuttal from the last issue, which may have been a bit harsh, but I'm not going back on it now. These politically correct people have this holier-than-thou attitude that really pisses me off. "Ex-emo kids who must have gotten beaten up in the lunch line," I believe he said. Blow it out your ass. I guess he figure that if you like aggressive music instead of sappy bullshit, you must be some mentally scarred pussy or some tough-ass gangster. The fact is that I love hardcore, real hardcore, and he doesn't, so he can't handle it.

What do you think about the whole One Life Crew controversy, especially since Brett gave their CD a pretty good review?

Dave-I wrote about the One Life Crew thing in Hardware #9, so I really don't want to get into it too much. I think the P.C. police go way too far these days. They are very boring people, in general. The One Life Crew CD was not a very good record, period. People shouldn't buy it for that reason alone.

Brett-I think the whole situation was totally blown out of proportion. I kind of like that record, and I'm not going to let the band's political beliefs get in the way of a decent record. I knew from the minute I heard it that these PC know-it-alls would cry their asses off, so I gave it a good review just so I could be the only one who would. I don't take that shit so seriously. I think a lot of people have to vehemently oppose things that the majority of the other people in the scene oppose so they don't get implicated as a sympathizer. A band's lyrics are there own business, and if I like the band but don't agree with their lyrics, I won't hate them or say they should be banned from the scene. Look at it this way, I fucking love Murphy's Law, but I don't drink or smoke pot. I have been known to "toss some burgers on the grill," though.

You guys are often criticized for "glorifying" the past. Will Hardware continue to document hardcore history?

Dave-That is the one thing that many people talk about. "Why don't you guys concentrate on more current bands?" "Who cares about the past?" Hardware covers what we like. You don't have to buy it if you don't want to. There are more and more kids these days extremely interested in HC and punk's past, just like Brett and I were many years ago. In 1984, I was trying to find out about old bands at the time! HC and punk is a very interesting subculture. It's history is vast. What we try to do is get people interested in HC's past because a lot of cool shit happened. Great bands existed. I still get a kick out of reading old interviews and hearing bands that I missed. I think if you ignore the past, the present becomes pretty meaningless.



Brett-The overwhelming majority of people are really into the way we approach the 'zine. Let's face it, a lot of people who like Youth of Today in 1996 didn't get to see them when they were around, and would like to know more about them. I like to talk about it, so I guess everything works out just fine. The records still exist, even if the bands don't. The shows happened, and some were great. People want to know about it.

You're both well over the dropout age of most hardcore kids, so what keeps you hanging around?

Dave-Well, I'm 29 years old and have been into this inactively (just listening to the music) for 13 years, and actively (going to shows, doing shit) for like 10. I still like the concept of how shows are run, working the tables and meeting cool people. Not to mention there are some cool bands around to see and hear. I'm not a very mainstream person, so I don't fit into society all that well. With all the bullshit that goes on, I still enjoy it. Somebody has to stick around to help all the new kids get involved, and it might as well be someone who gives a shit, like me.

Brett-I love this music. That's it. All those people who dropped out don't have the same passion for the music.

What, if anything, have you learned from your experience in the punk/ hardcore scene, and how do you apply it to your daily routine?

Dave-I have always had the same morals all my life, but never fully realized them until I found out about punk and HC. I have always been straight-edge, anti war, didn't like religion that much, etc., etc. Luckily, I was exposed to vegetarianism through the HC scene (but it had taken me a while to take the plunge, so to speak), and all the other things that I am were strengthened by the lyrics of bands. Being involved with this helped make my mind strong. I still tend to look at things in a black and white sort of way, so I still have a little way to go before I become the "perfect" person I'd like to be, which will probably never happen, because nobody's perfect. In any case, I have learned a lot from the experience.

HARDWARE

Brett-I live hardcore and straight-edge, but I don't try and convince other people, who have absolutely no connection to those things, that what they are doing is wrong and what I do is right. As far as most people are concerned, we are freaks. Let's face it, our music is not normal. People don't know what to say when I tell them about the things I do on weekends. How many normal people can conceive of doing their own record label? Not a lot. Hardcore or no hardcore, my life outside the scene would not be any different. I would have the same job, like the same sports, and still be straight-edge.

What, besides Hardware, keeps you guys busy?

Dave-Christ, sometimes I'm so busy I can barely catch my breath. I work a 40 hour week at my job, I help keep house with my wife, and spend time with my lovely wife. I'm into many different things, which Hardware keeps me from, like reading books and magazines, movies (horror, sci-fi, anime, British crime dramas, etc.), comics, gaming, toy collecting...no matter what anybody says, I'm pretty eclectic in my tastes. So with all this going on, I don't have much time to do anything else.

Brett-I have a record label called In My Blood records that I am trying to get off the ground. I'm doing a 7" with my friends in Floorpunch that should be out around mid-October. Hopefully, I'll make enough money off of that to pay off my label related debts and do another record. Other than that, I just got a new job designing liquid cooling systems, I moved to Red bank after a nearly six year absence, and I love sports, especially baseball and college football. With all this going on, I hardly have any free time, but that's OK.

If each of you could meet one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

Dave-I tell you, I could not narrow it down to just one person. There are many people, and this may sound strange, from the entertainment industry (actors, actresses, and singers) that I would like to sit down and have a conversation with. It really wouldn't be a historical figure or anything like that. If you put a gun to my head and made me decide, I would say Laura Dern. She is my favorite movie actress, and I am in utter awe of her.

Brett-I would like to meet Jerry Garcia, from the Grateful Dead, just so I could ask him why he was such a fat, fucked up drug addict, and why so many idiots thought he was a genius. I wonder if he feels guilty that he caused so many stupid impressionable kids to rot their brain because he said hallucinogenic drugs were cool. I would also like to have the pleasure of telling him that the day he died was a happy day indeed.

What would you want someone who reads Hardware to come away with, and what can we expect to see in the future?

Dave-I would hope people come away from Hardware with a desire to get into older bands they might not know about, and check out the newer bands we cover. Like I said before, there are a lot of people who are curious about this stuff, so I want to do my little part and try and point the finger in the right direction. The latest issue, #9, has the last Mouthpiece interview, and interviews with a lot of old bands like Krakdown, Absolution, Downcast, and Infest. The next issue will be out in early '97, and promises to be a big deal, especially now that more people are going to do stuff for us.

Brett-I want everybody who reads our 'zine, or even hears of it, to know that this is a hardcore fanzine. I make no pretense about being a major magazine covering fringe alternative bands like Civ or Quicksand. Don't expect any major changes in the future, either. We'll stick to the same formula that has worked over the past 3 years.

All right, we should probably wrap this thing up. Any closing comments?

Dave-I have been saying this a lot in interviews lately, BE YOURSELF! Don't let people tell you what to like and dislike. It's your life. You only have one. Do it right. Also, remember, no matter how bad you think you have it, someone has it a lot worse. That's the truth. Thanks for the interview, and read Hardware!!!

Brett-Thanks for the interview, and stay true to hardcore.

Dave Koenig
120 Coolidge St. 2nd Fl.
Linden, NJ 07036

Brett Beach
52 Spring St.
Red Bank, NJ 07701

KILL HOLIDAY



chamberlain



lifetime



YOUTH OF TODAY

Youth Of Today was easily one of the best and most influential bands of all time, and thanks to the "Youth Crew" and songs like "No More", countless kids like myself were exposed to new ideas like straight edge and animal rights. The following interview with the sometimes outspoken Ray "Of Today" Cappa was reprinted from an old Seattle based hardcore 'zine called Open Your Eyes, and took place sometime during the glorious year of 1988. Hey, if you've never heard of Youth Of Today then you must have lived in a cave for the past ten years or so, and you're definitely missing out on some truly great and inspiring music.

Where do we start...you guys are now on your first major national tour, hitting all the hot spots?

Ray-Last year was the other national tour which didn't work out as well as this one.

It seems on this one you're hitting all the small places, everything you missed before.

Ray-That's the key...

What kind of reaction have you been getting in these places which probably have never been exposed to Youth Of Today before at all in any way?

Ray-These places, pretty good, and even places that we've never played before, like Minneapolis and stuff like that have been really good shows. It's weird because we were always like an opening band, and now to headline a tour and have people come, it is a weird situation we're in.

You've got a record out now that's got major distribution on Caroline Records, so people in the smaller places are getting it...that helps.

Ray-That's one good thing, it's everywhere.

On the new record you seem to be covering a lot more ground than on the others. A lot more issues and personal subjects.

Ray-It's like smoothing out the rough edges of our older ideas.

You seem to be getting more specific, like on "No More" and "Prejudice", speaking out a little more (on vinyl that is) on some of these things.

Ray-Yeah, I agree. Do you like it?

Yeah, we like it! Are you happy with it?

Ray-I'm happy with it, except that the first mix got fucked up, but we fixed that. The first pressing is the old fucked up mix, but we remixed it. You're not going to be able to tell the difference unless you play it. The cover's going to look the same. After the second pressing...after like 10,000 which are all sold out, you'll have a new mix. The new mix sounds great. We just got rushed into the mix, but I like the execution a lot.

Did you have fun recording at the Chung King House of Metal?

Ray-Oh yeah, it was great. Us vs. Glen Danzig in graffiti writing on the wall. He would write something about devils and witches and we'd write all this straight edge stuff over it, and he'd come back and write something over that. Let's see, who else was there...we met Jam Master Jay, Public Enemy was there, went out to lunch with Richie Stotts of The Plasmatics. (We) had a great time there, a lot of graffiti on the wall...by the time Youth of Today finished recording, the graffiti was just a mess. We just got markers and spray cans and got to spoil Glen Danzig's art.

So what was the deal with your little break-up before? Then you came back together for this tour and album?

Ray-We just basically were pissed off at the scene and everything. You know, Youth Of Today is just one of those bands who everyone likes to take potshots at. I was just really bummed out about it all. I felt disappointed in the scene.

Were you guys getting tired of people picking apart at all the little things, trying to make you guys look like hypocrites?

Ray-Well, it's just that people...well, I'm critical about people, I guess, so I should only expect it back. But, I'm not an asshole about it, I don't think. A lot of people are just complete assholes to us, they'd love to see us "trip up." They live for it, you know? All we ever wanted to do with Youth Of Today was put out a nice message, people working together, basic lots of goodness type of thing, but people don't like that. People want to think other things, so they're going to make up things or...you know.

What do you think of the progression of the straight edge music scene since you started?

Ray-It's a great music scene.

It's changed a lot since you've been together.

Ray-Yeah, when we started there was no straight edge scene in N.Y., and I was just saying today that they used to tell us, "Oh, there'll never be a straight edge scene in N.Y., there's too much drugs." And now there is a big straight edge scene in the whole country.

Are you proud to be a part of it?

Ray-I'm proud to be a part of it, I think it's a good part of the scene, the hardcore scene. People say hardcore is a movement. I think that's pretty bogus, because it's not a movement. What is the hardcore movement, what is it moving towards? We have right-wing people, we have left-wing people, we have anarchists, we have straight edge, it's a movement in every direction. It's not a movement, all it is is a fast type of music, so it's nothing that I'm proud of, the hardcore scene nowadays. But the straight edge scene, it seems like at least it's got a direction. So when people say that these straight edge bands only support straight edge bands...but for me, why would I support a band that doesn't believe in the same things that I believe in?

Exactly...

Ray-Why should I go to their shows anyway? So call it what you like, it is just one type of music in particular I like. I like to listen to music that's uplifting, you know?

Someone with a message...

Ray-Some type of message that's going to inspire me to do something. I'm not just going to support any old band just because they play fast music, because they play thrash, you know?

WAKE UP AND LIVE

Wake up and live your life
See what there is to see
I won't sit around all day
'cause life means more to me
So many kids content
to sleep their lives away
But I'm gonna try
to make the most out of this day

It takes some motivation
It takes some love for life
Why just sit complacent
and let life pass you by?
Boredom is a choice
I choose not to make
unlock that door, strive for more
there's a better path to take

Wake up and live - breathe every breath
Wake up and live - until my death
Wake up and live so much to do
Wake up and live - all of you
c'mon...open your eyes.

A TIME WE'LL REMEMBER

This is a time that we can live our dreams
and a time so pure, at least it seems...
A simple life a modest one where money plays a
minor role
And I pray and I'll try to keep this spirit inside
as I start to grow old.
This is an era of creativity, good music, and good
friends
and the dreams that we reach for seem to be at the
tips of our hands
and it's getting too late to appreciate and it soon
will be the past
but I'll still have these memories, but why can't
they last?...maybe they can!
THIS IS A TIME WE'LL REMEMBER
This is a time with a lot of hope and very little fear
and a time where every move we made seems so
sincere
But when the song is sung and the moment's gone
only you and I
know all we've shared
and I hope that you can rekindle too, this same
feeling in the air.

WHAT GOES AROUND

A half ass commitment, a casual act
Shows me the decency that you lack
You're fucking with feelings and fucking
with heads
and "live for the moment" is all that you've said.
What goes around comes around so watch yourself
'cause you're falling down.
Abusing misusing you're out of control.
Your mind, spirit and body will take their toll
A slave to your senses, I see nothing more
'cause temporary pleasure is what you strive for.
Taken what you've wanted, stepped on what's in
your way
But there will a price that you'll have to pay
Easy acquaintances, broken friends, happy now
but the loser in the end
Broken promises, broken hearts
walk away when the pain starts
You take what's yours you still want more
if you only new what's in store...

There's a lot more in the world of music than just thrash.

Ray-Yeah, than to just play fast and stage dive.

Do you feel any pressure on you as far as being selective about what you say?

Ray-Yeah, more selective now. I realize you've got to be careful if you're in a band as to what you say, because kids do take things literally. That's why when we get on stage or we put out a record, I always try to be really careful on how I word things because you're responsible for all those kids and their actions. That's like the song "We Just Might", you know? That's why we changed the lyrics because people...I was getting a definite feeling people were taking it the wrong way, and I didn't want to put across that type of message.

It's not like the song is invalid in what it meant when you wrote it, it's just the way people take things.

Ray-We don't want to cross wires with anybody, so I'm pretty black and white on what I mean because I realize that when you're on stage you're responsible for all these people. That's why I think bands that put out those really negative, destructive messages, you know, these dudes are just the biggest jerks and they're responsible for all those kids...

The kids follow their lead.

Ray-Yeah, I know, it's the what do you call it...destruction of the world. It's the destruction of the world man, they're responsible for the kids.



So, you've got this major national tour going...

Ray-It's going good, we're having a great time. Besides touring, we've been cliff-diving, climbed Mt. Rainier, swimming in these creeks in Mississippi, let's see...a lot of swimming and high diving.

Besides touring, it's a lot of fun?

Ray-Lot's of fun. I've actually broke off and done lot's of stuff other than touring this tour, which is good. Sometimes touring you just get in this big rut, and actually this has been pretty good. I've enjoyed it.

So what about when you guys get back from this tour, what do you see? What kind of goals do you have as far as the band goes?

Ray-Those guys are going back to school for a while. I'm doing my own thing...I'm doing like a solo single, so to speak. Solo in that it's my ideas and my music. I think I'm playing drums and singing on it. There's just more things I want to sing about that I just feel to confined to say in Youth Of Today.

That steps out of the boundaries of what Youth Of Today is about?

Ray-Yeah, maybe not even that far out, but gradually. I'm only allowed to say certain things in Youth Of Today.

Yeah, because you've got three other people...

Ray-It's always fun being creative, and I agree with everything Youth Of Today says for the most part, I think.

Do you think the stuff you want to do on your own will eventually pull you out of the band?

Ray-Yeah, I kinda see myself going in a different direction than the band.

Do you think the band is limited in it's scope of what it can accomplish? Basically, It's not really Youth Of Today as a band, but you and John, the original members of the band.

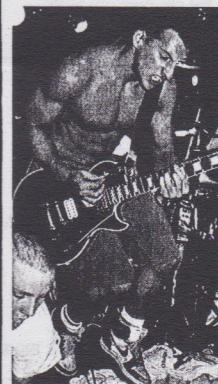
Ray-Yeah, I think me and John are just tending to think a little different.

It's not really Youth Of Today without either one of you.

Ray-I know, so I wouldn't try anything without Porcell, and Porcell wouldn't want to do it without me. But I think even me and him are thinking a little different on certain things. As lyrics progress past "unite" and straight edge.

People's lives progress and people go in different directions, and obviously that's reflected. Do you write all the lyrics?

Ray-Yes, on the new album. Actually, I wrote "Wake Up And Live" a long time ago. I wrote the lyrics and a lot of the music, too.



PORCELL — GUITAR

FLAME STILL BURNS

Made their threat,
Ruin your name,
Thought I was broken
but the spirit remains
and this flame will keep on burning strong
And I will still continue to sing this song
Bad mouthed behind us
Taken their shots
but this tattered body will never be stopped.
and this flame will keep on burning strong
and I will continue to sing this song
We've heard it all before and we're ready for
some more
If you think I'm gonna break, it's gonna take
more than what you've got!
Don't count me out
cause I've got some more
and I'm back with more strength
and vigor than before
and this flame will keep on burning strong,
and I will continue to sing this song'
My feelings in the music and the words are written
In stone,
and I know I'm not singing this song alone!



SAMMY — DRUMS

So, do you think you will make it to the point of another album?

Ray-I don't know, it's a mystery. I'm not sure...got a lot of things pointing us to it, but there's just so many other projects that I'd like to do still.

Yeah, it seems like everyone in the band has other projects, they have their other side bands and projects.

Ray-We'll at least do a single or something.

Are you still involved with Revelation Records?

Ray-Yeah, I've just been away from it for so long. I leave everything on Jordan's shoulders, which is pretty bad, but it's hard to be in a label and in a band. I spread myself so thin sometimes. I don't have a lot of time at home, and Jordan doesn't live in N.Y. anyway, he lives in CT, so he does most of the work. I don't have a car, so it's sort of hard.

What about a word on your "No More" video?

Ray-We did a video on our vegetarian song, "No More." It's not like it's very expensive, but it's still a pretty cool video. It's got all these pictures of us playing live, and then us in these meat markets we filmed along with me in the West Village. Let's see, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (P.E.T.A., you knuckleheads) sent us this animal slaughter movie, which we used clips from. We clipped everything together, just a little story with all our friends in N.Y. It's nothing that fancy. It's not going to match the 'Till Tuesday video.

LIVE FREE

Waving your flag a blind patriot
can no longer see 'cause your eyes are shut
'Love it or leave it' is your sentiment
instead of working for improvement.
but I want to live free,
and won't settle for this mediocrity.

Waving your flag we're number one
Societies got you under their thumb
too ignorant to see through their subtle attack
to make us content but we must fight back.
You don't love your country you just love yourself
because you sit complacent like everyone else
if your fights for freedom, then do what's right,
put down that flag, protest, and come join the
fight.

CHOOSE TO BE

Not Gonna
Keep up my guard
to prove I'm hard
or put on some act
to earn your respect
'Cause that's not the type I want to live
and that's not the type of energy I want to give
I guess I'm not cool
according to you
for having some friends
who don't seem to fit in.
Well that's not the type of life I want to live,
and that's not the type of energy I want to give
I guess you don't see
'cause you seem to be
real tough
but living in misery.

NO MORE

Meateating, flesheating, think about it.
So callous to this crime we commit
Always stuffing our face with no sympathy
What a selfish, hardened society
so NO MORE just looking out for myself ...
When the price paid is the life of something else
NO MORE I won't participate!
We've got the power we've got the might
to take what ever is in sight
Not even worried, it's an unfair fight,
well we've got a heart to tell us what's right so ...
Our numbers are doubling in '88
'cause the people are starting to educate
themselves, their friends and their families
and we'll have a more conscious society.

Does the band as a whole stand strong on vegetarianism?

Ray-Yeah, that was a must before you were in the band. I mean, Sammy joined the band and we just laid it down, if you're going to be in Youth Of Today, you've got to be vegetarian and straight edge and stuff like that. You know, vegetarianism is something you grow into, too, and you appreciate more and more as you become one. With reading it becomes deeper, your beliefs become stronger.

On tour you've had the books with you, and pamphlets?

Ray-Yeah, a lot of pamphlets and literature on vegetarianism. Mainly, I think the thing we are pushing with vegetarianism is not actually, "Don't eat red meat," or meat because it's bad for you, but more for the compassionate reason of, "Let's stop looking out for ourselves," like the line of the song goes, "No more looking out for myself, when the price paid is the life of something else." Stop worrying about ourselves all the time, and just show a little compassion. Just try to remove yourself from this body and look at everything as living and struggling.

It's not like they can really defend themselves against us.

Ray-Yeah, "We've got the power and might to take whatever is in sight." We can kill and take anything we want. But we've got a heart, though, you have a choice. You can live like an asshole, or we can live nice and peaceful.

It takes strength of mind, and a lot of people never make it to that point.

Ray-I know people who are vegetarian and straight edge. I think it's commendable. Those people are much more advanced and much more intelligent than those people who aren't.

What about the deal with Caroline? Compared with the other bands on the label, you seem to be quite a change of pace from the Suicidal Tendencies and Naked Rayguns and whoever else is on Caroline. Did they approach you?

Ray-Well, we like to think of ourselves as Suicidal Tendencies, or something like that.

Aren't you Mike Muir?

Ray-I mean, what it really boils down to is a record company is just looking for a band that's going to sell a lot of records. They know we were going to sell records.

What about friends in N.Y., bands you like, and bands you like to play with?

Ray-Probably the best band now is Gorilla Biscuits.

It doesn't seem like you have any places left to play in N.Y. ...no more Pyramid, no more CB's.

Ray-Where can we go, who knows? I don't give a shit if we never play N.Y. again.

It doesn't seem like N.Y. has a lot to offer lately...the great Rock Hotel, not many bands that can play CB's.

Ray-Like I said, I'd like to play N.Y., but I wouldn't want to compromise ourselves or play just having everyone stand still. I wish we could just have a decent show. So, what's your favorite song on the new album?

"What Goes Around", I like that. Probably "Flame Still Burns" and "No More."

Ray-Mine's "Potential Friends" and "A Time We'll Remember."

Have you gone further with the band than you thought you would initially?

Ray-Yeah, I mean I still have a hard time realizing how far we're at now. You're talking like we're real far or something...

Well, farther than the majority of hardcore bands, in general. It's a far cry from the "Can't Close My Eyes" days.

Ray-It's cool, though. The thing about Youth Of Today which I like, is our goals when we started the band, besides to tell people the message, was to put out records and tour. Our goal wasn't to headline and make "X" amount of dollars, or get on a big label or anything.

It's pretty incredible that you can make it this far and not compromise any of your original beliefs or music...

Ray-Well, there was some compromise. When we first started we were like, "Yeah, big labels suck!" Now I realize that most small labels suck just as much. On a smaller label, you don't get any money from that and the money is well earned. I didn't have to do any real compromising, didn't have to make a shitty heavy metal record cover. I didn't have to change our music or lyrics or anything. If I had to make a real compromise in the music or style, I probably wouldn't have done it, but I pretty much had complete freedom. I mean, maybe if I put a big picture of a man's penis on the cover they probably would have gotten pissed, but I don't think that's something I would have done anyway.

YOUTH OF TODAY

YOUTH OF TODAY support the vegetarian philosophy and diet. If you'd like to learn more about the dangers and problems with meat eating, check out your local library or health food store for the following books:

Animal Liberation

by Peter Singer

Food for the Spirit

by Steven Rosen

For for Life

by Harvey and Marilyn Diamond

Survival into the 21st Century

by Viktoras Kulvinskas

The Higher Taste

by Prabhupada

The Yoga of Nutrition

by Omraam Mikhael Aivanhov

Poisons in Your Body

by Gary Null and Steven Null

or write to:

PETA

P.O. Box 42516

Washington, DC 20015



eleven thirty-four



Emo Boys Ain't Shit, or Blame Yourself, Not Your Parents

There is so much talk about how the reason I do drugs is because all my friends did, or that I am too possessive of my boyfriend because my last one cheated on me. Excuses, there are a million of them. We place blame on others instead of ourselves so we do not have to feel bad, or so we do not have to try. In exchange for peace of mind and an easy way out, we lose control, and often hurt others in the process.

There is this Freudian passing of the buck syndrome that Oprah perpetuates and rejuvenates everyday with the reprise, "Blame your parents." That is why you eat five candy bars a day and have one night stands. It's not your fault. Your mom was mean, your sister hit you, and you weren't in the "in crowd" in high school. These words may bring temporary consolation, but they are counter productive to dwell on because you are the one buying the Snickers value packs, you are the one getting wasted at bars, and you are the one yelling at your boyfriend.

The real comfort is through introspection; realizing your faults and maybe seeing what caused them, but also changing yourself. Consolation is through taking responsibility for your actions and having self restraint. I know, because I have had to struggle myself with drunk stepfathers, cheating boyfriends, and mean "friends." I did get hurt and I did do stupid things, but I woke up. I changed my environments. I stopped blaming my wrath on others. I realized everyone gets hurt, and everyone hurts others, and if I let that all get me down I will be just as bad as the people I hate. What I do is my choice, and I do not want to give that up. If I get knocked off balance, then it is my job to get back up on my feet.

I remember being at an emo show, and there was this kid there with his whole life ahead of him, like me. He got on the mic and rattled off some idiocies that amounted to the media and my parents have alienated me, so now I hate school and I don't have any friends. Boo fucking hoo! I really feel sad for this guy, but not for the reasons that he would like, but because he does not realize that maybe he cannot adjust because of a personality flaw or that maybe he doesn't like school because he cannot handle it or doesn't like his classes. Even worse than those gross words was the fact that this guy thought he was so cool blaming, rolling around in it, getting other people dirty, saying, "Hey kids, you do not have to do anything or succeed because everyone fucked it up for you. Let's just sit around feeling bad for ourselves." Am I the only one that saw that this kid was making up excuses that will just bring him down?

Some one will do something rotten to you. People are like that. It does not mean that it is right or that it takes away your free will or that you are responsible for your actions. You can let things break you, or you can get up and change and be strong. That boy at the show is miserable because of himself. I am happy because of myself. Oprah did not have to tell me that, and no one can tell me different. I make my own choices.

Dorothy K.
418 1/2 University Pl.
San Diego, CA 92103

Hi Suzanne

I got this card from Beth and who better to send a ten minute message to but you! I'm in a chinese Restaurant by my work waiting for my car to be fixed. I'm kind of at peace - unlike the guy on the steps, however I felt like him earlier - ever since you left. I'm eating rice & veggies, they are warming my tummy like how you warm my heart. Thanks for being my friend and being patient while I need this time alone. cont on next card!



To Lance Wells
137 Tamarack Rd
Henderson, NV

But I even thought I'd feel better if I had some cheese, but I couldn't. Why is that? You are like that too. I think too much when I'm run down. I looked in the mirror today and my face was all blotchy and I had the darkest circles ever under my eyes. Thanks for hearing all my gripes. Gripe to me anytime. I'm sorry I said you are always sad. I'm the one with that problem. I just deny it. Look at the monkey that's me coming to visit you and maybe we could go ... cont next card

Lance Wells
137 tamarack
Henderson, NV 89015

Conversation has worn down. What happens now? Nothing's easy. Can you tell me what happens now? Where did we go wrong? What happens now, when the laughing's gone? I still miss you. Would you miss me too? When conversation fades like the setting sun. -Cleon's Down

Bowling & stuff. This strange looking old man is Dicasso. He was really neat, but also:

Kind of a bastard. Like everyone I suppose. Too much power & fame is no good. Air Supply is playing in this Chinese restaurant.

My fortune cookie said with integrity and consistency, your credits are piling up

But when will they pay off? When will school pay off? I've been thinking a lot about next card



Lance Wells
137 Tamarack Rd
Henderson, NV

work. I hate it. It's such a waste of my time and I do not mean my job in particular, but all these menial jobs I've had. 40hrs per week is way too much. No time to paint. I want to do that all the time. There is a giant onion in my food. Should I eat it? I will... Grass! Well, I'm about done here and with my babbling. I miss you. I love you.

Sometimes when things are too much I just think that you'll be here soon, & I mutter through



To Lance Wells
137 Tamarack Rd
Henderson NV 89015



Hold on to your friends.

help fanzine
c/o Lance Wells
137 Tamarack #12
Henderson, NV 89015